

Hand in hand to consolidate peace

THE FOLLOWING is an official translation of the address by His Majesty King Hussein I to the Middle East and North Africa Economic summit

I AM HAPPY to welcome you all, in the name of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and to express our pride in hosting this conference, which comes as a continuation of the work which we started in the last economic summit held in Casablanca last year. The objectives which we hope to achieve are to revitalise the process of development in this region and to improve the standard of living of its peoples, who have suffered the consequences of continuous conflict and tension throughout the past century.

This region witnessed many forms of the conflict and international rivalry that accompanied the cold war. When this war was over, and the opportunity became ripe to bring peace to the Middle East, we went to Madrid to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy, as embodied in resolutions 242 and 338. Our efforts were crowned with success when we signed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which we hope will be the launching pad for comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the whole region. But the peace which we seek must be accompanied by sincere and persistent efforts in social and economic development, so that the peoples of the region may overcome the negative effects of decades of conflict, and realise the importance of peace through tangible and positive change in their standards of living.

We are fully aware that regional cooperation between all countries should be based on complementarity and justice, so that the region may enjoy greater harmony, and fewer disparities in the levels of development among its countries. This harmony would only reinforce social stability and our ability to eliminate the root causes of future insecurity.

We are also fully aware that regional cooperation between the peoples of the Middle East must be in the framework of active and positive interaction with the world economy. If the countries of the region have taken advanced steps towards a partnership between Europe and the Middle East, this is due to the historic and cultural ties between our region and Europe. It does not suggest in any way that this partnership should be at the expense of our participation in, and interaction with, the world economy.

It is worthy of mention at this point that the countries of the region have already initiated their cooperation, which is based on clear foundations, in three areas: the environment, water, and the infrastructure. Concerning the environment, everybody realises that national policies for the protection of the environment are ineffective in the absence of regional coordination. The countries of the region are so closely intertwined geographically and demographically that it is impossible for any party to live in isolation from its surroundings. Concerning water, cooperation in this field is a vital necessity dictated by the nature of our region, which suffers a shortage of this basic life-supporting resource. This situation demands creative thinking in order to preserve and develop our sources of water. As for the infrastructure, all efforts must be concentrated on developing a continuous infrastructural network to achieve complementarity between the countries of the region, and foster cooperation among them in order to create a climate that attracts investment in all fields.

The international community is able to contribute to the rehabilitation of the economies of the region at minimal cost. To achieve this result, there should be a clear

and common outlook for the future which we seek for the region, in partnership and through cooperation with the international community. Each one of us will have a distinctive role to play in making our sub-region an active participant in the regional and world economies.

We in Jordan have worked diligently to liberate the economy and to create a healthy environment that attracts local and foreign investment.

We have boosted this by releasing the powers of human creativity, and assuring full freedom of expression and participation in the decision-making process. Our starting point in these reforms was our conviction that the total stability of the national economy is the fundamental condition for achieving balanced sustainable growth. We have achieved this stability by virtue of fiscal and monetary policies which aimed at controlling government expenditure, limiting the budget deficit, stabilising the exchange rate of the dinar, and preventing inflation from obstructing our economic progress. We have also implemented a policy package which aims at promoting savings, encouraging investment and activating the private sector so it can contribute to the process of development, the creation of new opportunities for employment and raising the level of economic growth. In addition, we have worked assiduously to develop our human resources, which have been central to improving the standard of living in our society. They have contributed also to the development of other countries in the region, through the expertise and qualifications which they made available to these countries. We have sought to rectify the relationship between the public and private sectors in Jordan, to make it one of partnership and complementarity between their roles. In this relationship the public sector lays down the foundations of an investment-attractive en-

vironment, and the organisational framework that permits the private sector to invest in projects that include the infrastructure. Comprehensive reform should not be limited to high leadership. It should include those at the forefront in administration, the economy, and the law.

In the past few months, the Jordanian Parliament ratified a number of new economic laws that aim to make the investment climate in Jordan stable and full of promise and opportunities. You will be able to familiarise yourselves closely with these opportunities in the course of this conference.

We are fully aware that consolidating peace and stability is linked to the achievement of comprehensive economic and social development. We are also aware that peace and prosperity cannot prevail except in an atmosphere of justice, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and the supremacy of the law. Based on this firm conviction, we shall continue our diligent efforts to ingrain these concepts in our society until Jordan becomes an example of the commitment to these noble objectives.

In cooperation with our colleagues on the steering committee of the Amman summit, which held the last of its meetings yesterday evening, we have worked to prepare the Declaration of Amman, which we hope will be ratified by this conference. We hope that it will be an advanced step towards the rehabilitation of the regional economies, in a spirit of cooperation, confidence and hope.

Once again I welcome you all to Amman, and I thank all those who have contributed to the preparations for this economic conference, particularly the World Economic Forum and the steering committee of the conference.

May God help us to achieve that which brings benefit to our peoples, and may God bless you all.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday addresses the MENA summit

Mideast opens for business

Statement by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening plenary session of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit on Sunday, Oct. 29, 1995

IF THERE is only one phrase that you remember in the coming days, let it be this: the Middle East is open for business.

After all the years of conflict and closure, it is truly a pleasure for me to chair the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman, and to welcome you all to our capital. The government of Jordan and the World Economic Forum have tried to bring together government and business leaders from around the world. We are honoured to host this meeting, and have done our utmost to prepare the right environment, programme and logistics. However, I want to make it clear at the outset, that this is an international conference. Its success depends entirely on your support and participation. I would like to thank President Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin for their co-sponsorship of this summit. I would also like to thank His Majesty King Hassan II for his kind effort to launch the successful summit at Casablanca.

The Middle East and North Africa are called by us in the Arabic language the Mashreq and the Maghreb — where the sun rises in the East, and where it sets in the West. Between these two celestial poles, language, faith, culture, commerce and history have given the peoples of these areas shared perceptions of the past, and common aspirations for the future.

The presence in Amman at this summit conference of the distinguished representatives of governments, financial institutions, public corporations, and of private business persons not only demonstrates the significance of our Mashreqi and Maghrebi space to the international community; it also opens up for our peoples the possibility of joining in the global adventure of the 21st century.

As chairman, it is my duty to raise a few items for discussion. I would like to do this by asking three major questions: how did we get here, what do we hope to achieve, and how do we hope to achieve it?

Firstly, how did we get here? Five years ago, this gathering would have been unthinkable. Cast your minds back to October 1990. Regional tensions were at boiling point, for the Middle East was about to be torn apart by the Gulf war. Yet only a year later, the Madrid peace conference was convened, and we set foot together on the road to reconciliation, peace, partnership and prosperity.

The Casablanca summit, so ably hosted by Morocco, demonstrated the value of cooperation among the countries of the region. It also provided an opportunity for people from the region to get

to know one another. With the Amman summit, we intend to move on to the next level. This summit is an opportunity to start the process of reconstructing the economies of the Middle East and North Africa in the most practical way possible.

This leads me to my second question: what do we hope to achieve over the next few days? Simply stated, we hope to set in motion a dynamic process to rebuild our shattered region. We must seize the opportunity provided by peace-making, to engage in peace-building.

Let us be clear about our long-term goals. We want to give every man, woman and child in the Middle East, a stake in their common future. We want our region to be known for something other than death and destruction. We want to see the day when a product labelled "made in the Middle East" inspires confidence. We want, in short, to achieve shared prosperity through self-reliance.

This leads me to my third question, which is perhaps the hardest, and requires the greatest attention. How should we go about rebuilding the Middle East? The peace process is restoring regional security, and along with developments such as the move towards democratisation, will bolster domestic stability. It is now the task of the MENA governments to generate rapid, sustainable and widely-shared economic growth. A partnership entailing joint commitments based on common interests will be central to achieving this goal. The best strategy is to harness a trilateral partnership of governments, businesses and international finance.

It is the job of the regional governments to create a climate that attracts international investors while supporting their own private sectors. We must make the Middle East competitive; we must tap the latent energies of our own societies while attracting the capital and expertise of foreign investors. It is the right of the local and foreign investor to ask for a good investment climate. We are working hard to satisfy these concerns. Jordan has just passed a legislative package that liberalises and streamlines business regulations, offers incentives to foreign investors, and encourages domestic savings and investment. The time is past when foreign investors feared for their copyrights, or the repatriation of their capital and dividends. Other countries of the region are also planning and implementing market-friendly reforms and impressive privatisation programmes.

Middle Eastern governments must create a suitable environment for regional

cooperation. We must harmonise legislative structures and policies, promote regional capital markets, create specialised economic zones and trade hubs, and adopt international quality standards. Our long-term goal must be to liberalise and dismantle all barriers in the region, whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. For free trade in the region will contribute both to prosperity and to peace.

It has been suggested that this process could begin with a free-trade agreement embracing a core of Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians and Israel, which could evolve into a customs union and ultimately a common market. Other building blocks are emerging both in the Maghreb and in the Gulf. Ultimately, economic arrangements in the MENA region must involve all parties who wish to be involved. Such possibilities may lie in the future, but to quote one recent study: "The prospect of a sizeable, thriving region with open trade and a diverse skill base, could help create a new emerging market, which would bring much needed foreign capital and investment to all partners." This, ladies and gentlemen, is surely what we are seeking to achieve.

Over the next few days, we will get down to the heart of the matter. We will discuss specific joint investments and regional projects in detail. They both make, and embody, a statement about the interconnected nature of our future.

It is important to remember that we are seeking joint ventures and equity partners; we are not looking for a free ride, but for serious investment in the future of the region.

To this end, we will also devote a good portion of the coming days to discussing trade liberalisation, industrial policy, infrastructure, resource development and financial mechanisms. We will consider ways to institutionalise peace-building and to stimulate trade and investment. We will work on arrangements for regional financial bodies to coordinate and regulate investment for development. By the end of the summit, we hope to have chartered a number of regional institutions called for in the Casablanca Declaration, including a Regional Tourism Association, a Regional Business Council and a Regional Financing Mechanism, and a regional body for policy coordination. It is only natural and healthy that different approaches are initially proposed for these institutions until a consensus is reached.

None of this can succeed without you. To our guests, we say again: welcome to Amman. Look around you. The region has changed. The Middle East is open for business.

Investing in peace

The following is the speech delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the opening of the Amman economic summit Sunday:

SO FAR we have invested much blood, much time and much money in a product which may have been essential to our national existence, but of little benefit for our citizens, we invested in war. Today and from here on, we are committed to invest in peace.

There are serious barriers ahead of us. We must overcome, on both sides, psychological barriers, and generations of hostility. But in the drowsy Middle East, where everything moves at a slow pace, we will hurry to make up for lost time. The world is not waiting for us, it is moving ahead. If today's economic reality remaining in place there is a huge disadvantage. All of us here today are at the starting line. We have heard the starting gun, and we are off and running.

Peace in the Middle East demands that we think differently, talk differently and act differently. From now on, all our efforts, actions, plans, all our words must concentrate on the economy and on the quality of life. We owe this to the citizens of the countries which we represent here, a new life. To struggle against illiteracy and poverty. To overcome the problem of water, a problem common to the entire Middle East. To produce, to sell, to market and to profit. No one will come here because of our winning smiles, they all want to make money.

The four main parties to the peace process, Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians and Israel have demonstrated extraordinary maturity and cooperation towards erasing the scars of an entire century by creating three regional institutions in the last year: the regional bank, the regional business council and the regional tourism council. From the podium at Casablanca we called for their establishment and a mere one year later the governments of the region and the business community can point to their establishment as a major vehicle to intensify mutual cooperation in the area. To the representatives of private industry: Your presence here is both proof of your faith in the hidden economic potential of this region, and of your confidence that it is profitable to do business here.

Israel brings to this summit its desire and commitment to play a constructive and cooperative role in this arena. Since Casablanca, Israel and its neighbours have already initiated dozens of development projects in such diverse fields as water transportation, agriculture, environment, energy, among other, thereby slowly but surely weaving a fabric of coexistence and cooperation, a fabric resistant to the pressures, scepticism and outright sabotage which attempt to disrupt and derail the peace process.

Regional economic development, however, entails far more than the commitment and goodwill of the parties directly involved. The resources of the region are insufficient to meet the challenges before us. Regrettably, the region has been able to raise only three per cent of the international funds earmarked for economic development.

We must remember that in the last year alone, there are an additional four million mouths to feed in our region. We must provide housing for their families, jobs for their parents, schools and clinics for their brothers and sisters. This is a very heavy burden.

Towards this end, we need the participation and cooperation of numerous parties — both within the region and beyond — from governments, local business communities, and outside partners. The international public sector will play a cardinal role through financial involvement. The private sector will enjoy unique business opportunities. Planning, engineering, construction, capital equipment, debt financing, equity financing and professional services are all coming into demand.

With increased budgets, more attention, more leadership and more entrepreneurial capabilities channelled to economic development, the region will flourish, and the Middle East may, should and will become one of the most viable and prosperous regions in the world, achieving once again its former prominence and status.



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Investing in peace

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SUFAR we have invested much money, much time and much effort in a project that may have been essential to our national existence but of little benefit to our citizens. We invested in war and not in peace. We invested in the old and not in the new. We invested in the past and not in the future.

There are serious human rights issues on both sides, and we must not allow them to become a pretext for violence. But in the Middle East, where the world's eyes are focused, we must find a way to make progress. The world is not waiting for us. It is moving ahead. If today's economic summit is to be a success, there must be a clear message: All of us have today a new starting line. We have the technology, the talent and the will to succeed.

Peace in the Middle East is not just a moral imperative. It is a practical necessity. We think that a truly different, and better, future for the people of the Middle East is possible. It is a future where the economies of the region are thriving, where the lives of the people are improving, and where the peace is a reality. We think that a truly different, and better, future for the people of the Middle East is possible. It is a future where the economies of the region are thriving, where the lives of the people are improving, and where the peace is a reality.

Let us not forget that the people of the Middle East are not just victims of conflict. They are also the creators of a rich and diverse culture. They are the people who have built a civilization that has inspired the world. They are the people who have shown us the power of human spirit and the strength of human unity.

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Anti-normalisation group condemns MENA; says summit based on incorrect political assessments

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Opponents of normalisation of relations with Israel condemned the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit and said that it aims at integrating the Jewish state in the region and replacing the Arab boycott of Israel with a corporate economic bloc through regional projects and development schemes with Israel at a time when Israel is still disregarding Arab and Palestinian national rights.

"This conference has been based on wrong

assessments of the current political situation in the region, in which the Arab-Israeli conflict is still in place as the holy lands continue to be occupied," said a statement by a provisional executive committee of the Jordanian National Conference, a coalition of opponents to normalisation. The statement said that "it is obvious that the United States and the Zionists" aim at transforming Jordan into a passage for Israeli economic expansion in the region, and are exerting strenuous efforts to make an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian economic bloc in the new Middle East.

The statement added that the proposed Israeli joint projects for the Jordan Rift Valley and Aqaba, and the projects on roads, communications, electric energy networks and tourism are bound to increase Jordan's reliance on the Israeli economy which will subsequently harm the Kingdom's economic, political and national independence. Although it is said that it realises Jordan's need for development and investments, the executive committee demanded that such development schemes be included in the country's national programmes and not serve American-Israeli

strategic plans. "We realise our need for investment to deal with poverty, unemployment and the chronic economic crisis. But this development can only be achieved by integrating our efforts with friendly Arab countries without succumbing to the American and Zionist plans," the statement said. The Jordanian National Conference met on Sept. 29 and issued a charter calling on Jordanians to resist all measures aimed at dealing with the "Zionist enemy." The meeting was chaired by Islamic Action Front Secretary General Ishak Farhan.

CSC says job applicants list numbers 111,059

AMMAN (Petra)—The Civil Service Commission (CSC) Sunday said 111,059 job seekers are currently registered with the commission, and 34 per cent of those are residents of the Amman area.

According to the CSC, many of these job seekers have not appeared for a placement interview for

jobs in government institutions, which, according to the CSC, means that they have already found jobs with the private sector.

Therefore, the statement said, the CSC figures on job applicants do not reflect the actual number of unemployed.

The announcement quoted the Department of Sta-

tics as saying that the total Jordanian work force stands at 1,036 million, nearly one quarter of the population of 4,095 million.

It added that 81.2 per cent of this force were already employed.

The department based its figures on the general census conducted in Decem-

ber 1994.

According to the department estimates 29 per cent of the job seekers are high-school graduates and 17.2 per cent are university graduates.

The department expects that nearly 50,000 will enter the labour market in 1996, and 53,000 in 1997.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "La Discrete" at the French Cultural Centre at 8.00pm

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Salam Kanaan and ceramics by Najwa Annab and Margaret Tadros at Alia Art Gallery.
* Paintings by Iraqi artists Nazem Hamed at Orfali Gallery.
* Paintings by Iraqi artist Saleh Juma'i at Ab'ad Gallery.
* Paintings by Shakir Hassan Al-Said at the French Cultural Centre. Posters on Louis Pasteur's achievements, in science.
* Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.
* A Retrospective Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Mnna Saudi at Darat Al Funun.

BANI HAMIDA FALL EXHIBITION

* The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project presents "Winds of Change" its fall exhibition at the Jerusalem Insurance Company in Shmeisani (Tel. 658696)

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Location	The Dead Sea, Jordan.	Dead Sea, Jordan.	Dead Sea, Jordan.	Aqaba, Jordan.
Sales	South Europe and Asia / Jordan (20 Million USD per year)	Regional and Europe (mainly exports) (30 Million USD per annum)	Exports mainly to Asia & Europe.	Regional and mainly exports 20 Million per annum.
Status	Under construction & expected completion in July 96.	Studies Completed & tenders to be announced beginning of '96 for Completion in 1999.	Under negotiations with Partners - First Phase by 1998.	Expected for completion in 1998
Uses	Chlorinated Industry	In Refractory Bricks for steel furnaces.	Flame Retardants, Drilling Fluids, Photographic Chemicals	Specialty Fertilizers, animal Feed.
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Products	Industrial salt, Table salt	Magnesia and MgO specialties.	Bromine, Tetra brom, Calcium Bromide, Sodium Bromide.	Potassium Sulphate, Di calcium Phosphate.

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Fresh Sri Lanka clashes kill over 70

COLOMBO (R) — More than 70 people were killed in fighting between Tamil rebels and advancing troops in northern Sri Lanka Sunday, the military said.

"Troops came across well fortified trenches and minefields," the military said in a communiqué. "Terrorists fired mortars on to the advancing troops and as a result the advance progressed slowly."

The fighting occurred in the latest push in Operation Riviresa, an offensive launched 12 days ago by three divisions of troops against Jaffna, stronghold of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Armed Forces' Operational Headquarters said the troops resumed their advance at dawn but met stiff resistance from the rebels.

Two Roman Catholic priests from Jaffna said during a visit to Colombo that Operation Riviresa was driving civilians into the arms of the Tiger rebels.

They told reporters that civilians were suffering because of "indiscriminate shelling" by the armed forces. Four or five civilians had been killed each day since Riviresa began on Oct. 17, they said.

The Catholic Church has been accused of being

actively pro-LTTE in Jaffna but the two priests said their main concern was the safeguard of human rights and safety of civilian lives and property.

Asked about the human rights and safety of almost 120 Sinhalese shot or backed to death last week by the LTTE in five eastern villages, they said they deplored all loss of life and had told the Tigers as much.

"Just because we speak for human rights (in Jaffna), to tar us with the same brush (as the LTTE) I do not accept," said Father James Pathinathan who runs an orphanage in the north.

Father Christopher Jayakumar, president of the Jaffna Diocesan Justice, Peace and Development Commission, said the armed forces were driving people further into the Tigers' arms because the troops were shelling civilian areas.

He said 200,000 to 300,000 civilians had been displaced.

The military says it accepts there are civilian casualties but that it has tried to keep them to a minimum.

The two priests also denounced the Tigers for recruiting children to fight in the front lines.

The LTTE, fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east, attacked the

Sinhalese villagers and blew up two Colombo oil depots last week.

Analysts said the attacks were attempts to divert soldiers from the northern offensive, the biggest advance the army has mounted against the Tigers in 12 years of war.

The military says more than 500 rebels have been killed and 1,500 wounded so far in Operation Riviresa.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga raised eyebrows when she left on an overseas visit 10 days ago as fires from a Tamil rebel attack lit up the Colombo sky.

But analysts said Sunday that galvanising international support has been one of her biggest successes in the war against Tamil separatists.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, defence minister and commander in chief of the armed forces, has wooed the West over to her side in fighting the LTTE, who broke a truce in April and refused invitations to view a "peace package" offering devolution to the country's Tamil minority.

"Seeking international approval has been a major focus and a big success," a Western diplomat told Reuters. "This time she really wanted to go to New York and meet all the big

leaders and put her case."

Mr. Kumaratunga had called off a visit to the non-aligned summit in Colombia but went to New York for the U.N. 50th anniversary celebrations and stayed on to address the Asia Society and attend other functions, her press secretary said. She is due to return to Colombo Monday.

She made use of the time reiterating that she was fighting a war she did not want, that a political solution was the only viable solution and that there would be conditions for any future peace talks with the Tigers, such as a complete end to hostilities and at least a symbolic laying down of arms.

In a way, she was preaching to the converted, with her People's Alliance government managing to have eroded most pro-LTTE sympathies with governments abroad.

But at home, the signals were not so clear. Newspapers daily debated whether or not she knew about the spectacular pre-dawn rebel attacks on two oil depots in Colombo when her plane took off on Oct. 20. And if she did, why did she leave?

Certainly there was confusion at the very top level of government. Mrs. Kumaratunga issued a state-

ment saying that she heard about the attacks "just prior to my departure."

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte however told parliament that she left without knowing a thing.

"She didn't leave anything set up here in terms of who was in control while she was away," the diplomat said. "At first I thought she was doing the right thing (in going to New York), but now I'm not so sure."

The confusion surprised many, as the armed forces, fresh from considerable successes in routing the LTTE in the rebel-held Jaffna and reportedly putting the Tiger leadership to flight, are massed in the north and believed to be poised for a final big push.

Mrs. Kumaratunga will likely be at home if and when the final push begins. Whether or not this is the end-game remains in doubt.

"The army thinks it's winning, making advances, and now they want to finish it off," one local human rights campaigner said. "What they have to remember is that they are facing a guerrilla army fighting a guerrilla war. (The LTTE) never intended to beat them on the battlefield."



Members of the Tanzanian ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party wait for their leader Benjamin Mkapa in Dar Es Salaam, during a final rally before the first multi-party elections in the country's history (AFP photo)

Slow start to Tanzania's first multi-party poll

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzanians voted in their first multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections Sunday after 30 years of one-party Socialist rule.

Voting got off to a slow but peaceful start in the capital Dar Es Salaam after opposition parties dropped earlier plans to stage a boycott.

The main choice facing the registered electorate of 8,950,000 people, out of the East African country's population of nearly 30 million, was between the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and Augustine Mrema's opposition NCCR-Mageuzi.

"In quite a few polling stations materials arrived late but no disturbances have been reported," one of the foreign election observers in Dar Es Salaam said.

Late-night talks took place Saturday between Western donors and Tanzanian authorities over payments to at least 150,000 election officials, diplomatic sources said.

"The officials want assurances that they will be paid by the treasury," one diplomat said.

CCM presidential candidate Benjamin Mkapa, a former journalist and diplomat aged 58, has campaigned as the safe choice representing stability and

continuity.

But Mr. Mrema, once a state security agent serving the CCM government, has rammed home a populist message promising to attack official corruption and raise Tanzania out of the bottom 10 poorest countries in the world.

Mr. Mrema's NCCR and eight smaller opposition parties decided not to boycott the poll despite what they called the "total rigging" of last week's elections in Zanzibar.

Tanzania's 17 main donors, who provided about \$15 million to help finance the elections, called Saturday for a check on the result in Zanzibar, reporting "discrepancies."

The CCM candidate for the presidency of the islands, joined in a union with mainland Tanganyika since 1964, was declared the winner last Thursday by a thin margin over his opposition adversary.

Polling in Zanzibar began without incident Sunday for the Tanzanian Union elections, foreign observers said.

"I am not happy about the Zanzibar result and I am afraid that if we are not careful the same thing will happen here," Mr. Mrema, wearing his trademark cap, told reporters after voting in the capital Sunday.

Bangladesh's Khaleda invites opposition to talks

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has invited main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to talks aimed at ending long-running disputes over future elections.

The invitation came in a long-awaited letter from Mrs. Khaleda delivered to Mrs. Hasina's residence Saturday night by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, acting secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party government and opposition leaders said.

The text of the letter was not made public, but the state-owned Dainik Bangla newspaper quoted Mrs. Khaleda as saying in the letter that "the next parliamentary election was not too far" and that she wanted to resolve the political problems now through discussions with an open mind.

"I firmly believe the current problems can be resolved through negotiations... And I sincerely invite you to talks with open mind to resolve them."

Mrs. Hasina was not available for comment, but a senior leader of her Awami League party, Suranjit Sengupta, said "the letter contained nothing specific. It's a wild letter issued with an intention to trigger more confusions."

Bangladesh Times, another state-run newspaper, quoted Mr. Sengupta as further saying that "I don't think this letter will help solve problems. It's simply an eye-wash."

Jesse James goes to the grave

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Jesse James, the glorified outlaw of 19th-century western lore, went to his grave Saturday — for the third time in 113 years. Funeral services for the robber, murderer and train robber were held in Kearney, Missouri where a horse-drawn carriage brought his remains to Mount Olivet Cemetery. Nearly 600 people attended the service. Officials had exhumed his remains last July to conduct DNA tests to determine if James actually was shot by a member of his gang in 1882 and buried in the grave that bore his name. Stories had circulated ever since the shooting that the 34-year-old James escaped death and another person lay in his tomb. Preliminary DNA tests found last month that the exhumed remains probably were those of James. The body was moved once before from his mother's yard to Mount Olivet in 1902.

McCartney hates having to justify his place in the Beatles

LONDON (AP) — Paul McCartney says he hates having to justify his place in the Beatles to people who regard the late John Lennon as the rock group's heart and soul. When Lennon was assassinated in New York in 1980, he became a rock and roll saint to many Beatles fans. He was viewed as the creative, avant garde songwriter while McCartney was seen as less-serious and less-important. In an interview in Saturday's Daily Express, McCartney said he was the only bachelor Beatle living in London and experimenting with new music in the early days — and the others were "very square" because they were married and living in the suburbs. "The thing I find myself doing, which is a pity really, is trying to justify myself against John — and I hate to do that," McCartney was quoted as saying. "There are certain people who think he was the Beatles. Now that is not true and John would be the first to tell you that. But you can't blame people for feeling that way because his death was a hell of a tragedy," he was quoted as saying. He said there was a big difference between Lennon and McCartney. "John'd always wanted to jump over the cliff," McCartney was quoted as saying. "He once said to me, have you ever thought of jumping? I said, '... You jump and tell me how it is.' McCartney has joined with surviving Beatles George Harrison and Ringo Starr to do a television history of the group and a six-album anthology which will include two singles Lennon made before he was killed.

Mother punished for torturing daughter to death

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese court has sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for torturing her child to death, inflicting such cruel punishments over the years as sewing the girl's lips together, a report seen Wednesday said. The court in Xining in the northwestern province of Qinghai heard how Yan Zhiyun regularly beat and maltreated her daughter Su Li, who died in 1993 at the age of five. In December 1990, Yan sewed up her daughter's mouth after she discovered that the starving toddler had sought to curb her hunger by eating chicken food. Saturday's edition of the Yangtze Evening Post said. Yan again punished her daughter in March 1993 for secretly eating some pork oil by forcing spoonfuls of boiling oil into her mouth, the report said. The child's mouth was so badly hummed that she was no longer able to eat anything, and she died six days later.

Indian ministers suggest early Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — An Indian ministerial team on Kashmir has called for early legislative elections, preferably in December, in the troubled state, officials said Sunday.

The team suggested at a two-hour meeting here Saturday that the elections be held before the expiry of the current spell of federal rule in Kashmir on Jan. 17, an official spokesman said.

The group of ministers, who had been asked by the prime minister to study the possibility of holding elections in Kashmir, included External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Finance Minister Mammoohan Singh.

They "felt the situation in the state had turned for the better and conditions were conducive for the holding of elections by mid-December," the spokesman said. Saturday's meeting was also attended by intelligence officials.

Indian officials said a final decision on Kashmir elections would be taken by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been governed directly by New Delhi since January 1990. Muslim militants fighting a bloody war since 1989 against Indian rule over Kashmir have vowed to sabotage any elections. Kashmir's pro-India Na-

tional Conference Party, which once ruled the state, has said it would take part in the proposed polls only if the Indian government grants autonomy to the northern state.

The last elections to the Kashmir legislature were held in 1987.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in the Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim guerrillas in the Himalayan province. Islamabad denies the charge.

India and Pakistan dispute the ownership of Kashmir and have fought two wars over it.

Meanwhile foreign guerrillas holding four Westerners hostage in Kashmir have begun turning control of the tourists over to local militants as they move the captives to a more densely populated area, Indian authorities said Sunday.

"We believe the Afghans and Pakistanis are being replaced by Kashmiris," said a senior government official who asked not to be identified.

Since the Western tourists were kidnapped in early July, the Indian government has claimed Pakistan was behind the abductions and that shadowy Al-Faran guerrillas were mostly Afghans and Pakistanis.

Islamabad has denied any involvement and denounced the kidnappings, which have also drawn criticism from Kashmiri separatist groups who say Al-Faran has hurt their five-year-old uprising against Indian rule. Police and doctors say some 20,000 people have been killed in the uprising.

Americans Donald Hutchings and John Childs and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were captured on July 4 near the mountain resort of Pahalgam, some 50 kilometers east of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe were picked up in the same area on July 8, the same day Childs escaped to safety.

On Aug. 13, Ostroe was found beheaded in a remote forest.

Authorities said the apparent decision by foreign guerrillas to turn control of the hostages over to Kashmiris could be a hopeful sign, although they cautioned there was no indication the four-month-old ordeal would end soon.

"We believe there have been fresh inductions of Kashmiris into the group holding the tourists, and the foreigners are being replaced so eventually they can claim Pakistan was not involved," one government

official said.

Female companions of the hostages left India for home last week after renewing an appeal to Al-Faran to release their menfolk. A diplomat said the women had not given up hope but wanted to be with their families after keeping a four-month vigil.

"Their mood is determined but patient," the diplomat said.

Authorities said the hostages were being held by large numbers of militants — newspapers have said as many as 100 guards — and have been shifted from very high altitudes in the southern part of the state back to the lower Pahalgam area.

The government has a good idea where they are if only because the militants and hostages have been regularly sighted by villagers and shepherds as they move within the region.

"People know where they are moving," an official said. "They are now in fairly densely populated places, in hamlets, not towns."

Indian security forces have been ordered not to try to rescue the hostages as it could endanger their lives. "We don't see any nervousness on the abductors' part," an official said. "We think they will look after them (hostages)."

Pakistan opposition storms out of parliamentary address

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Opposition lawmakers stormed out of Pakistan's legislature Sunday, staging a defiant protest during President Farooq Leghari's annual address to a joint session of parliament.

Calling the president a liar and shouting insults at Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's coalition government, opposition Pakistan Muslim League lawmakers disrupted Mr. Leghari's annual speech for the second year in a row.

Although tame by comparison to a brawl that broke out during last year's speech, Sunday's protest illustrates the deep divisions that trouble Pakistan's parliamentary system, a theme introduced in Mr. Leghari's hour-long address.

"There is little difference between the manifestoes of the government and the opposition parties," Mr. Leghari said. "The people of Pakistan have the right to expect their leaders to rise above personal animosities and unite."

Ruling lawmakers in the parliamentary chambers pounded their desks to sound approval for the call despite the glaring vacancies in more than a third of the seats.

More than 100 opposition members of parliament and senators walked out on Mr. Leghari's speech just three minutes after it began.

The protest was joined by a handful of lawmakers from the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami and Karachi's ethnic opposition group the Mohajir Qaumi

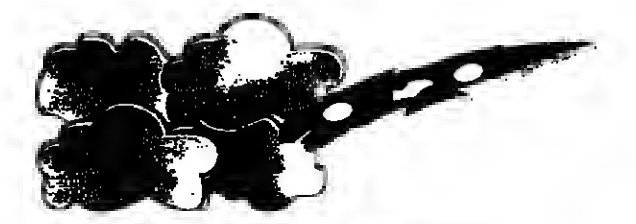
Movement.

After the protest, Mr. Leghari continued his speech, calling for a war on corruption in government and a political solution to ethnic violence in the southern city of Karachi.

"I call upon all parties to renounce violence and together with the government try to seek a political solution," Mr. Leghari said.

Last year, the president's speech was reduced to a shouting match with opposition politicians.

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MENA: Clarity of objectives?

A COPY of the draft declaration of the Amman economic summit for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) that circulated in town yesterday appears to endorse several financial and economic institutions to serve the ideals and objectives of regional economic cooperation constructed on the edifice of peace between Israel and the Arab World. MENA I, which was held in Casablanca last year, had articulated these purposes but left it up to MENA II to translate them into reality.

So far so good. What could be disturbing to note, though, is that not only inter-Arab rivalries are influencing the decision-making process of the task force of the summit; differences in perspectives among some of the major donor countries are also taking their toll on the future course of the past and future MENA summits. Somehow we get the distinct feeling that various quarters and spheres of influence are not operating exactly on the same wavelength on how best to attain the objectives that we all seem to agree on.

Accordingly, we seem to have decided to have a bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa to be based in Cairo. Its aims will be to promote development of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects and increase economic cooperation. We need not guess why Cairo was selected to host this bank or figure out who was behind it and who was not. But we would definitely like to know how policy-making and project identification in the context of regional economic development of the MENA region would be formulated. Will they remain in the realm of REDWIG or will they be the responsibility of another institution that we do not know yet about?

Then we are going to have a Regional Business Council, again to promote cooperation and trade among the private sectors of the participating countries of the two regions.

The proposed Regional Tourism Board aims to promote tourism on the level of two regions that are different and far apart. While we do not profess to be experts on tourism, plain common sense would readily reveal that tourism in North Africa is not quite connected with tourism in the Middle East. These two areas of the Arab region are not exactly complementary to one another when it comes to tapping the resources of the tourism industry. As a matter of fact lumping the two regions together for the purpose of economic development strikes us as controversial to say the least.

Out of all the basket of fruits that is being assembled by MENA II, Amman, its host, is getting just an apple or two. As a token of appreciation to Jordan for its commitment to regional and comprehensive peace, Amman has been chosen to host REDWIG, the Regional Economic Development Working Group. Again this additional body will promote and strengthen regional economic cooperation, this time for the Middle East alone. At least there is considerable sense in trying to promote regional cooperation on the Middle Eastern scale rather than on the basis of two regions as the other institutions seem to be doing. As for the secretariat of the MENA summits, of course Rabat will be the host capital since Morocco was the first country to host the MENA series.

The many signals that emanate from present and past experiences gained from MENAs I and II give an added credence to the feeling that there has been considerable wheeling and dealing behind closed doors on the future course of regional economic development. Unless and until intentions of the parties are better coordinated, there is every reason to believe that where we are heading may not be exactly where we set out to go in the first place.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday hailed the results of surveys conducted in Palestine and Jordan that found a majority of the people in the two banks of Jordan support some sort of union between them. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the results of the poll reflect the fact that the majority of people feel they hail from one united family despite the occupation that lasted 27 years and the constraints imposed on the Arab people of Palestine and on Palestinian refugees. The writer said that the Israeli obstacles in the way of re-establishing the strongest possible ties between the two sides would not succeed in keeping the people of the two banks separated nor can it succeed in keeping the Palestinians under the tutelage of Israel politically or economically. The economic difficulties facing the Palestinians are politically motivated by the Jewish state but these are bound to be removed soon once the Palestinians achieve their independence and exercise their sovereignty and embark on close cooperation with their Jordanian brothers.

COMMENTING ON the convening of the Amman Economic Summit, Saleh Qallab, a columnist with Al Dustour daily said that while Jordan felt proud over the occasion it was sad that countries like Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Iran were not represented at the meeting. The writer said that the participation of these countries, being Middle Eastern states, would have given further impetus to the conference since its decisions and recommendations are bound to affect the whole region. He said that this was an international gathering aimed primarily to launch projects that would benefit the whole region. Its convening in an Arab country marks the world community's realisation of the Arab region and its deep interest in contributing to its development, he added. Jordan misses these countries which have a great economic potential that can be utilised towards achieving progress in this region. Comprehensive peace and development would not be complete without the involvement of all the region's states.

Human Rights File

Protection of human rights presupposes development

By Dr. Waleed M. Sa'di

THERE IS a wide consensus that the ongoing Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit was inspired by the bilateral peace treaties struck between Israel on the one hand and Jordan and the Palestinians on the other. The timing of the meeting was deliberately chosen on the premise that by October of this year, both Syria and Lebanon would have been fully integrated into the peace process. The absence of Damascus and Beirut, not to mention Baghdad, would obviously put a damper on the hopes of the conferees for the time being. Yet these missing elements are not supposed to wreak havoc since they are not supposed to remain lacking for much too long. As a matter of fact, the momentum of economic development across the board in the region may end up speeding up the process of incorporating the absent partners rather than the other way around.

Still, even after the resolution of the issue of the missing parts in the jigsaw puzzle of comprehensive peace, MENA should not and cannot remain for long a one-legged exercise based only on peace between Israel and the Arab World. The Arab-Israeli conflict may have succeeded in dwarfing other regional conflicts but has not succeeded in eliminating them. Inter-Arab disputes, lack of pluralistic democracy and disrespect for the most basic elements of human rights are but some of the major burdens that may still stifle the objectives and aspirations of MENA unless the process of healing them begins. This is where the conferees may take time to address these other dimensions by referring to them as serious impediments to full regional economic development and integration.

Take for example inter-Arab problems. There is no doubt that most Arab capitals carry on the business of bilateral and multi-lateral relations with one another on the premise that there is and will always be a conflict of interest

between them. Luckily, this sense of conflict of interest could be found more on the governmental rather than on the public level. Arab peoples everywhere still remember that there were no borders between them for centuries and continue to aspire and yearn for the return to that historic normalcy. It is no secret that for the most part Arab peoples do not have much of a say about the shape of their future till this late hour. There is a general feeling that if things are left to the peoples of the area, there would be no frontiers between them and the era of conflict of interest would be gone for ever.

Jordan is one of the very few Arab countries which have started the democratisation process and admits that it still has a long way to go to attain the full objectives of democracy. We have discovered by sheer political decision that democracy cannot succeed by a mere political decision from the top. Above all, democracy, we have found out, is a call for conditions that could sustain the process. Even in a fairly developed country like Jordan, blessed with internationally-recognised enlightened leadership, the ebbs and flows in the process were easily noticeable in the past years. Over and above the obvious hurdles such as lack of a sufficient tradition in functional democracy, the ever widening gap between the rich and poor in our midst, poverty and unemployment are serious obstacles to the springing up of deep roots for democracy. That's where we have confidence that regional economic progress can lend valuable support to democracy in our own country as well as to the other countries of the area where democracy has yet to be born by at least erasing some of the economic problems standing in the way of effective democracy.

Meanwhile, the participants at the Amman conference need to be respectfully reminded that there is an organic link between genuine and lasting economic development

whether domestic or regional, and bona fide democracy and respect for human rights. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recognised and endorsed this relationship. Other international fora have equally subscribed to this proposition, including the Beijing Women Conference few weeks ago, the 1994 Cairo world conference on population and last but not least the 1993 Vienna Conference on human rights.

As a columnist on human rights, the least that I can do at the occasion of the holding of the three-day MENA summit in Amman is to draw the attention of all the good people who are attending this meeting to the urgent need of highlighting the link between multi-dimensional development in the Middle East and North Africa and the cause of democracy and human rights. I am not suggesting here that economic or financial support to the countries of the two regions must be made contingent on respect for basic human rights and the steady progress in the development of democracy on the premise that economic progress does in itself accelerate the democratisation process. Rather, I am hoping that the opportunity offered by MENA should be seized to impress upon the governments of the two regions the urgent need for the introduction of deep-rooted democracy and respect for human rights as a high priority consideration that would determine the extent of the continued support of the haves in the world to the many have-nots in the Middle East and North Africa. Otherwise, some of the regimes in these two regions of the world would continue to labour under the false impression that peace with Israel is all that it takes to win the favour of the donor countries, even at the expense of human rights and democracy. Peace with Israel must never be viewed as a licence to perpetuate old ways of governing and this much must be made clear to the concerned states.

Dole's damaging bill

By Dr. James Zogby

removing the timeline and the sanctions, they also gave the president the authority to delay implementation of the bill if he finds that constructing the embassy would constitute a threat to the national interests of the U.S.

Upon passage of the Dole bill, President Clinton issued a strongly worded statement opposing the legislation, characterising it as "a mistake that could undermine the peace process." He made clear that he would neither sign nor implement the bill. Since 90 per cent of both the Senate and House had voted for the legislation, Mr. Clinton knew he could not sustain a veto of the bill; but by using the waiver authority he had succeeded in adding to the legislation, the administration can delay it indefinitely.

By any measure, the congressional legislation is an obnoxious insult to Arabs and Muslims. It undercuts U.S. credibility and threatens the legitimacy of the U.S.-sponsored peace process. It also contributes to deepening the enmity towards the West that is widespread in the Middle East. While leaders in the region may understand the complications of U.S. domestic politics and the resolve of the administration to prevent the legislation from disrupting the peace process, to most Arabs and Muslims the legislation is simply another evil action taken by Americans against the firmly held belief in Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic identity. The anger and demoralisation that this has caused must be factored into any understanding of the legislation's consequences.

For the time being, Likud and its allies have won. They have demonstrated their residual power in Congress; and Congress has demonstrated its inability to rise

above crass election year pandering.

But despite all of this, the time-bomb created by the Jerusalem legislation has a fuse that can be extended indefinitely. Its length will be determined by the extent to which Arabs and Muslims work, even at this late date, to convince the administration and the American people of the danger of an early embassy move.

If pressures from Israel and pro-Likud elements in the American Jewish community continue to mount without being countered by equally strong pressure from Arabs and Muslims which makes clear the danger such a move would pose to peace and U.S.-Arab relations, the administration may find it difficult to continually utilise the waiver authority.

In real sense, the fight for Jerusalem is not over, but is entering another phase. For the Palestinians, this phase will require tough negotiations and most probably some effort at effective mass action in demand of their rights. From the U.S. side, of course, all is a matter of politics: to win, Arabs must be committed to play a game in which morality and reason are not the trump cards — political power is all that matters.

It is important to note that the Jerusalem legislation received only scant attention from the U.S. press. It was eclipsed in the headlines and on editorial pages by the crude insult New York City Mayor Rudolf Giuliani delivered to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Giuliani, a Republican, won the 1993 mayoral race with strong support from some segments of the city's Jewish community. He owed this support in part to an alliance with Democratic New York State Legislator Dov Hikind.

Mr. Hikind is a leader in the emerging Orthodox Jewish community. He is not only a Likud supporter, but also a Jewish Defence Leagues leader and a big contributor to Gush Emunim settlement activity. Hikind's support for Giuliani was, in part, a reflection of the deepening division between New York's Orthodox Jews and the African-American community. This divide was a major sidelight to the 1993 mayoral election in which Mr. Giuliani defeated incumbent Mayor David Dinkins, an African American.

By ordering Mr. Arafat to leave a city-sponsored concert in honor of the United Nations' 50th anniversary, Mr. Giuliani was less concerned with diplomacy than he was with continuing to please Hikind and his extremist constituency.

As in the case with Senator Dole's action, mainstream Jewish groups did not publicly challenge the mayor. Their silence is an indication that while those organisations support the peace process and have met with Chairman Arafat, they have not yet found the courage to speak out against nominally pro-Israel moves that damage the peace process, or to defend the PLO's chairman — even though it was through Arafat's leadership that peace became possible.

To their credit, both the administration and the national press roundly rebuked the mayor. The White House and the State Department both denounced Giuliani's undiplomatic insult to the "leader of the Palestinian people," and the press editorialised, calling the mayor crude, inhospitable and insulting to the Palestinians, to New York and to the American people.

A New York newspaper made clear that this was not the first time that a New

York mayor had insulted Arabs in a crude effort to pander for votes. In the 1950's then-Mayor Robert Wagner snubbed Saudi Arabia's King Saud when he visited the city, in the 1960's then-Mayor John Lindsay cancelled a dinner in the honor of King Faisal, and in the 1970's then-Mayor Ed Koch personally and publicly criticised President Jimmy Carter's Middle East peace proposal. But this was the first time that both the administration and the press combined to publicly rebuke a New York mayor for such obvious and insulting pandering.

Both the Jerusalem legislation and the New York mayor's actions are disgraceful, but they are also dangerous warning signs of a U.S. political process that may be moving out of control.

In both instances Arab-Americans attempted to fight back. We organised against Dole's bill, mobilising allies in the Christian churches and speaking out in the press. But we were fighting an uphill battle, in part because our organisations are understaffed and overworked, and because we fought alone at times. There was no coordination with official Arab representatives and their counter-arguments to these ridiculous acts did make their way into the national debate.

It is still not too late. We can rise above the Giuliani insult and turn it against the mayor; and we can, at least, mute the danger of the Dole bill. But doing so will require us to take seriously the American political arena. Quiet diplomacy from governments will not work (nor, for that matter, will violence or threats of violence from opposition groups). The only path to changing the current sad state of affairs is developing and implementing a political strategy that fully engages in the American political debate.

We can still save Jerusalem and our dignity, but first we must decide that we want to.

Celebrating two decades of work and achievements

To the Editor,

IT HAS been a source of satisfaction for me to observe the quality and objectivity of your information and your independence, traits that have transformed the Jordan Times into a tribune of open expression for all opinions. The free and objective press reflects the maturity of a people and its leaders, and requires from its journalists a high level of professionalism and seriousness; attributes I have always found in your newspaper.

Jorge Iglesias,
Ambassador of Chile,
Amman.

YOUR 20TH anniversary marks a new era in the history of the Jordanian press and we hope you will achieve further success in serving the profession and the homeland under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

We at the Amman Chamber of Industry follow what you write about industrial progress in Jordan and the role of the chamber in boosting the contribution of the private sector towards our development process. Your work in enhancing the status of the Jordanian press on the local and international levels is very much appreciated.

Khalid Abu Hassan,
President,
Chamber of Industry,
Amman.

ON BEHALF of all members of the staff, I wish for the Jordan Times every progress and success in conveying Jordan's message to the world

Abdullah Utom,
Director, the Jordan News
Agency, Petra.

MAY I take the opportunity to extend to you all wishes and hopes that the Jordan Times will continue to be a forum for expressing right and justice as a major contributor to supporting the press march in Jordan.

Nabil Al Sharif,
Editor in Chief,
Al Dustour.

FIRST LET me congratulate the Jordan Times on its 20th anniversary and add my voice to the many who have praised its contribution to journalism here. In particular, the 20th anniversary supplement is a valuable record of its many achievements as well as being provocative in its own right. So provocative that I wish to comment in some detail on the article by Ziad Rifai on the "Status of media training in Jordan."

Dr. Rifai's analysis is thorough and full of refreshing and honest insights. I found his concept of "readers' rights" and the problems these cause for the media in Jordan extremely helpful. But in some important respects, he is now out of date. A lot has happened here since the seminar he addressed last year on the role

of the media in a democracy. And Jordan is at the centre of many of the most exciting media developments in the whole Eastern Mediterranean.

Our Med-Media project has established in Amman, at a location provided by Jordan Radio and Television Corporation (JR&TC), the first regional training resource centre, giving support and coordination to media organisations throughout the Eastern Mediterranean, from Turkey to Egypt. This is a tribute to the foresight and determination of some Jordanians who can see how the country could benefit from the media explosion that is about to hit the region and are determined that it should.

This centre should be the site for the kind of "library of Jordanian newspapers for research purposes" that Dr. Rifai calls for. It could be the beneficiary of the kind of economic investment that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit is discussing. It is already becoming the first point of contact for many journalists both inside and outside the region who want objective support and information.

It would be ironic if the Med-Media Training Resource Centre in Amman was of more benefit to Jordan's neighbours than to Jordan. Communications, attitudes and traditions here give Jordan many natural advantages as a regional centre for the media. It offers the kind of investment opportunities that many of those visiting Amman for the MENA summit are searching for.

Tudor Lomas,
Director,
Med-Media Training Project,
Hilversum, The Netherlands.

LETTERS

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Dr. Waleed M. Sa'di

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about a full democracy. The United Nations Development Programme has recognised and encouraged the international community, including the Beijing 1995, the 1994 Cairo world summit, but not least the 1993 rights.

At the least that I can do at this three-day MENA summit is to urge the good people of the region to the urgent need of a multi-dimensional development process and the cause of it is not suggesting here that the countries of the two regions on respect for basic rights in the development of economic progress does in the process. Rather, I am urged by MENA should be the objectives of the two regions of deep-rooted human rights as a high priority in the extent of the world to the many North Africa. Otherwise, two regions of the world, the false impression that to win the favour of the sense of human rights and just never be viewed as a of governing and this much needed states.

work major had involved Arabs in a crude effort to under the votes. In the 1980s then-Minor Robert Wagner snatched Saudi Arabia's King Saud when he visited the city in the 1980s. Then-Minor John Lindsay cancelled a dinner in the honor of King Faisal, and in the 1970s then-Minor Ed Koch personally and publicly criticised President Jimmy Carter's Middle East peace proposal. But this was the first time that both the administration and the press contributed to public rebuke. A New York Times for such obvious and insulting conduct.

Both the Jerusalem legend and the New York Times actions are also a crime. But they are also a warning sign that a US political process may be moving out of its orbit.

It is still not too late. We can rise above the Clinton move and turn it against the peace and the danger of the Middle East. But doing so will require us to take serious the American political and a most diplomatic from governments will not wait. For that matter, all involved in threats of violence, from opposition groups. The only path to change the current state of affairs is developing and implementing a political strategy that takes account of the American political debate.

We can still save Jerusalem and our dignity. But first we must decide that we want to.

LETTERS

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is at the centre of many projects in the whole Eastern region. In Amman, a hotel and television corporation, a resource center, giving support to the region's organisations. This is a tribute to some Jordanians who are in the media explosion that is rampant that it should be for the kind of "history of purpose" that Dr. Khatib calls for the kind of economic investment that the MENA summit is the first point of contact for outside the region who want to.

Media Training Resource Centre to Jordan's neighbours than to Jordanians here give us a regional centre for the current opportunities that MENA summit are searching for.

for London.

Media Training Project version. The Netherlands.

Amman Declaration

This is a declaration drafted early Sunday summarising the deliberations of the participants at MENA summit. The declaration will be official when read out at the closing summit Tuesday.

ON OCT. 29-31, 1995, the second Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit was held in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal. The summit, co-sponsored by the United States and the Russian Federation, with the support of EU, Canada, and Japan, brought together government and business leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia. Summit participants thank His Majesty King Hussein for his able leadership and for the extraordinary efforts by the Kingdom of Jordan to make this summit a success. The participants also expressed their appreciation for the partnership of the World Economic Forum, which assisted so ably in organising this event.

The goals of the summit were to facilitate the expansion of private sector investment in the region, to cement a public-private partnership which will ensure that end, and to work to enhance regional cooperation and development. In this spirit, business leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, and other regions were able to conclude a number of significant commercial and business transactions at the summit that will help augment the productive capacity of the region and contribute to its broad-based economic development. These ventures involved projects in the fields of tourism, telecommunications, and transportation. Reflecting this public-private partnership, a number of these ventures will benefit from government guarantees, technical assistance, and other support from the international community.

Government representatives conducted a series of negotiations over the past year on institutional arrangements as called for in the Casablanca Declaration which would help underpin the peace process. In this respect, the following agreements have been reached:

— A Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa will be established in Cairo. The bank — as described in its draft articles — will be structured to promote development of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects, and provide a forum to promote regional economic cooperation. The Task Force will finalise its negotiations by Dec. 31, 1995 and will continue to explore proposals for the creation of a project preparation and financial intermediation facility. Those wishing to join the bank will begin their national ratification processes thereafter. Others wish to leave open the option of joining the bank at a later date, in light of the evolution of institutional arrangements and other developments. The economic summit will review this issue at its next meeting.

— The establishment of a Regional Tourism Board, the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association to facilitate tourism and promote the region as a unique and attractive tourist destination. The board will include both public and private representatives.

— The establishment of a Regional Business Council to promote cooperation and trade among the private sectors of the countries of the region.

— The formal inauguration of the Economic Summit Executive Secretariat, which is located in Rabat and works to advance the public-private partnership, promoting contacts, sharing data, and fostering private sector investment in the region. The participants expressed their appreciation

to the Moroccan government for its contribution to this effort, and confirmed their support for its ongoing activities.

As a complement to the regional institutions called for at Casablanca, the Steering Group of the Multilateral Peace Negotiations has decided to establish the REDWG Monitoring Committee Secretariat as a permanent regional economic institution to be based in Amman. All participating parties have agreed that this institution will promote and strengthen regional economic cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa. The regional parties strongly recommend that the secretariat's activities will cover the range of sectors within the REDWG Monitoring Committee's work, i.e. infrastructure, tourism, trade, finance, and areas within the Copenhagen Plan of Action. The core parties in close consultation with the European Union and other members of the Monitoring Committee undertake to finalise the appropriate document on the structure and operational functions of this institution, which will be submitted to the next meeting of the REDWG plenary, with a view to the commencement of the institution's activities in the first half of 1996. This REDWG plenary will consider the manner, take appropriate action, and report to the upcoming meeting of the Multilateral Steering Group.

The participants at the summit expressed their strong support for continued progress in the peace process begun at Madrid exactly four years ago, and the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace. Participants took particular note of advances made in the past year. Summit participants welcomed the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and took favourable note of the significant progress made in implementing the Treaty of Peace between Israel and Jordan. The summit welcomed the decision to organise in Paris, in December 1995, a Conference on Economic Assistance for the Palestinians. The summit also took note of the positive contribution made towards peace by multilateral working groups. While welcoming an increasingly positive atmosphere of openness in the region, the summit recognised that the circle of peace needs to be widened. Participants expressed the hope that peace agreements between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon would be concluded as soon as possible. The summit welcomed significant steps taken by regional parties to the Taba Declaration and by the GCC with regard to lifting the boycott on Israel, and expressed its support for additional efforts to end the boycott.

The participants at the summit declared their intent to implement as soon as possible the understandings reached in Amman. With respect to commercial activities, the business representatives reaffirmed their intention to follow through on the commercial ventures reached here and to explore new opportunities to expand trade and investment in the region. On the part of government, the officials attending the summit declared their intention to support the activities of the private sector, most particularly by getting the new institutions established in Amman up and running as soon as possible. The participants also welcomed the measures taken by regional parties to open their economies and join the global economy.

Taking note of the historic process begun at Casablanca and continued in Amman, which continues to complement and consolidate other positive developments in the region, the participants at the summit expressed their intention to meet again a year hence for a third annual Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Cairo.

Building institutions for peace

Excerpts from the address by Yasuo Fukuda, vice-minister for foreign affairs of Japan, made at the opening session of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit

WHEN ISRAEL and the Palestinians signed the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, the peace process surely entered a new phase. With the ensuing progress in this peace process, we are no longer where we were two years ago. Since we met last time in Casablanca, the Middle East peace process has made further strides towards a comprehensive peace in the region. The peace treaty concluded between Jordan and Israel last year has been steadily implemented.

What is required at this stage is to transform agreements between governments into reality. As His Royal Highness Crown Prince puts it, peace-making has to be followed by peace-building. This is the very objective that this Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit meeting has taken up.

For this purpose, our priorities would be as follows: First, we should reduce economic disparities among regional parties. The international community needs to continue to strengthen assistance to the Palestinians, who are now expanding their interim self-rule over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Japan, for our part, will continue to actively support the Palestinians.

Second, the region should take effective measures to enable people, goods, and capital to move freely across national boundaries. Economic interaction within the region and with the rest of the world should be promoted by lifting impediments to free economic flow, including the removal of Arab boycotts.

Third, the region needs

rule and guidelines that would define the mode of cooperation. What we did in the Environment Working Group of the multilateral negotiations is meant to serve this end. The Working Group endorsed "the Bahrain Environmental Code of Conduct for the Middle East" last autumn, and we are now working on putting it into practice.

Fourth, we need to institutionalise regional cooperation. I believe this has been one of the reasons why the regional and extra-regional parties have been engaged in a series of serious negotiations to get various regional institutions established, the institutions that regional parties at the last summit meeting in Casablanca agreed to create for the economic development of the Middle East and North Africa.

As the shepherd of tourism within the framework of the Regional Economic Develop-

ment Working Group, Japan has led the discussions on the establishment of a regional tourism board. Having met almost once a month, the regional parties have agreed to establish "the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association." The eight regional parties are going to sign the Charter of the Association today.

As another regional institution, the establishment of a Middle East and North Africa Development Bank has been proposed. Instituting such a bank would be useful in order to support the peace process economically by channelling private funds to the Middle East and North Africa. We would like to continue to work with the parties concerned towards the establishment of a bank with sound and prudent management, which could gain greater support from various parties.

Europe, Mideast share common space

Excerpt from the statement by Javier Solana, minister of foreign affairs of Spain and president of the European Council of Ministers, at the opening session of the Amman Economic Summit

WE HAVE gathered here at a decisive moment in the development of the region. Just a year ago we witnessed the momentous achievement of peace between Israel and Jordan. The European Union warmly welcomed this at the time, and has been pleased to watch since then the development of constructive and cooperative bilateral relations between Israel and Jordan.

Most recently, the Spanish Presidency was proud to witness, on behalf of the European Union, the historic interim agreement signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington on the 28th of September. This too brings the region a step closer to stability and peace, prerequisites for sustained and suc-

cessful economic development. The European Union's commitment to the Middle East and North Africa region is well-known and of long standing. We share a common space in the Mediterranean, the peace and prosperity of which we have every interest in maintaining and enhancing. With this in mind, we have over the years established a network of bilateral association or cooperation agreements with many of the countries of the Near and Middle East. We are now in the process of renewing and enhancing a number of these agreements to improve our economic and political cooperation with our partners.

Likewise, the European

Union's support for and involvement in the Middle East peace process has been constant and unreserved. I have just completed a tour of the parties to the peace process and am encouraged by their commitment to peace, whatever the difficulties and obstacles. The EU stands ready to assist at any point if the parties themselves believe this would be helpful.

The European Union is already playing a key role in encouraging cooperation among the parties to the peace process, through its active role in the multilateral negotiations framework and working groups set up as a follow up to the Madrid Conference in November 1991, taking in particular responsibility for the chairmanship of the Multilateral Working Group on Regional Economic Development-REDWG. The REDWG Monitoring

Committee in particular has successfully encouraged those involved — Egyptians, Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians — to work together for their common good after years in which circumstances made such collaboration impossible.

The Barcelona Conference, which will take place next month, by setting up the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, will bring a new dimension to the close ties already existing between countries of the Mediterranean Basin and the Member States of the European Union. Its objective, and new global approach, is a zone of peace, stability and prosperity, and it places a particular emphasis on the development of economic potentials and the human and social dimensions, together with the strengthening of stable political relations.

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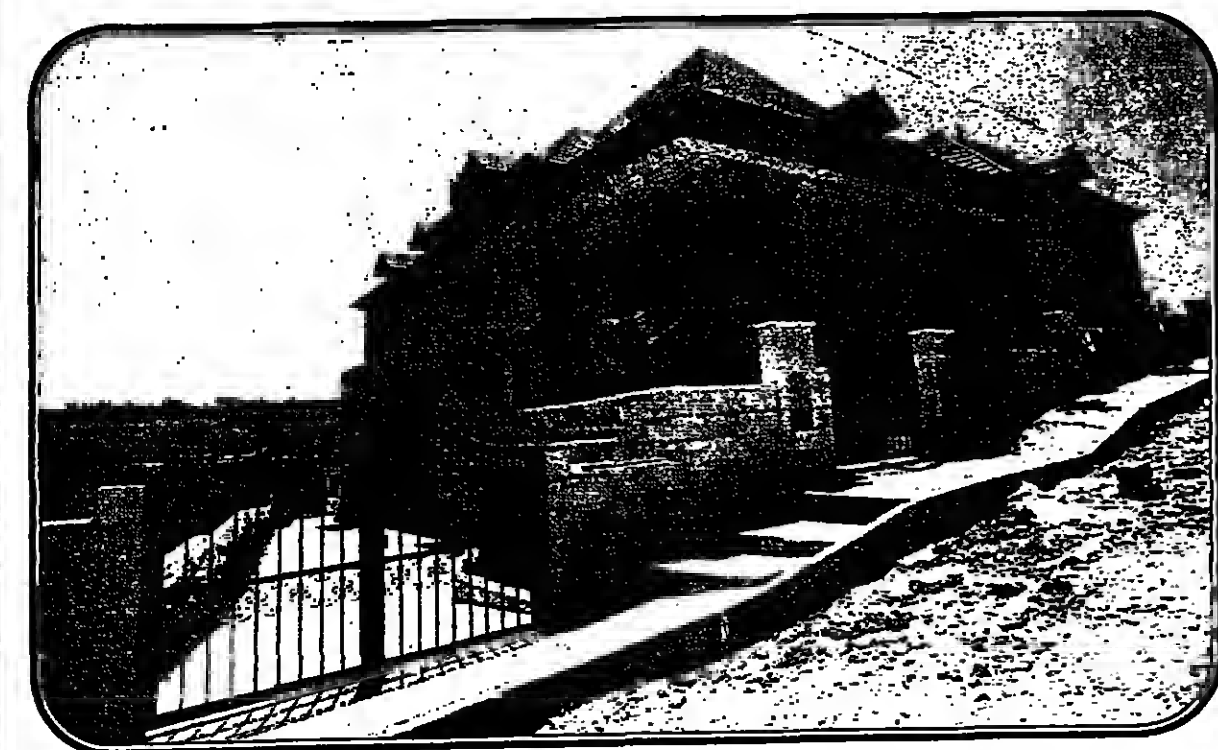
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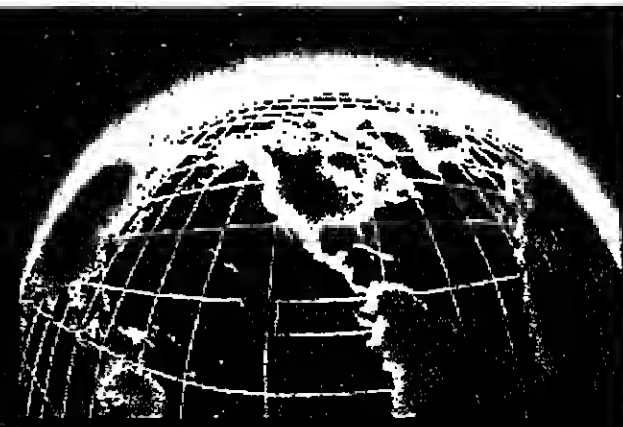


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Philippine maid could get 'light' jail term - judge

DUBAI (AFP) — Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan could be sentenced to a "light" term in prison on Monday after the family of the man she killed dropped its demand for her execution, a former judge said.

The young maid was condemned to death last month when a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court convicted her of the premeditated murder of her UAE employer Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi, rejecting her claim that he had raped her.

But Baloushi's family two weeks ago dropped its long-beld demand for the death penalty and said they would accept "blood money" as compensation after UAE President Zayed Ben Sultan Al-Nahayan intervened.

The head of the appeals court in the city of Al Ain, Sheikh Baya Ben Salig, told AFP his tribunal would deliver a new verdict when it meets on Monday as the state must still punish a crime against public order.

He gave no clue as to what the sentence would be.

A former UAE judge who asked not to be named said it would most likely be a "light" jail sentence. In eleven previous cases where families had "forgiven" killers, prison terms ranged from two to 15 years, a UAE official said.

Although there can be no further appeal, the case could go before a court of cassation, which determines whether the proceedings in the court of appeal were carried out properly, officials said.

Philippine diplomats, who have been closely involved in Ms. Balabagan's defence,

have insisted she should be acquitted, arguing she acted in self-defence when she stabbed Baloushi with the knife he used to rape her.

Ms. Balabagan has already served 15 months in jail.

The death sentence had sparked protests in the Philippines, already angry over the March hanging in Singapore of another maid, Flor Contemplacion, for a double murder. France also protested over Ms. Balabagan's sentence.

The UAE official insisted that Sheikh Zayed had persuaded the Baloushis to drop the death penalty in line with UAE and Muslim tradition and not as a result of international pressure. "This case is not unique," he said.

The death penalty was imposed in a retrial ordered by UAE authorities, who cancelled a verdict in June jailing Ms. Balabagan for seven years for manslaughter and ordering her to pay 150,000 dirhams (\$40,000) in blood money.

The court also found that Ms. Balabagan had been raped and awarded her 100,000 dirhams (\$27,000) in compensation.

The judges in the retrial heard new testimony saying she had not been raped. UAE officials also said Ms. Balabagan was 27 years old when she killed Baloushi. Ms. Balabagan said she was 16, although she arrived in the UAE on a passport listing her age as 28.

Ms. Balabagan's parents have been in the UAE since the appeals process began. "They are expecting they can bring Sarah home soon," Labour Attache Danilo Cruz said earlier this month.

Struck Palestinians head back to Libya from Cyprus ferry

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A group of 30 Palestinians stranded on board a car ferry for more than two weeks headed back to Libya late Saturday, the country which they had originally left, Cypriot officials said.

The passengers disembarked from the Countess M, their floating home since Oct. 13, and boarded a smaller boat, the Crown, which left the Cypriot port of Larnaca on Saturday for Libya, an official said.

Both boats belong to the same Greek company. Palestinian Ambassador to Cyprus Samir Abu Ghazala told AFP that the Palestinian representation in Tripoli and the Libyan ambassador in Cyprus had told him that Libya had agreed to let the remaining passengers return.

They had been among 650 Palestinians, mostly workers who had lost their jobs accompanied by their families, who left Tripoli on Oct. 13 for Syria. But they were refused entry by Syria and the Countess M has been anchored at Larnaca since Oct. 17.

More than 610 passengers with Syrian documents were later taken in by Syria in a change of heart, and 13 were

flown to Jordan. Mr. Abu Ghazala thanked the Cypriot government for all its efforts "especially on the humanitarian side." He also thanked Arab embassies and "in particular our Syrian brothers who have accepted to take in the largest number."

Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi began to expel Palestinians from Libya in early September to show up the failure of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords to create a Palestinian homeland. So far 5,000 have left, and another 1,000 are stranded at a tent camp on the Libyan-Egyptian border.

Colonel Qadhafi said Wednesday he would halt the expulsions of the Palestinians for three to six months and allow those in the camp to return.

Despite the creation of Palestinian autonomous areas, Israel still controls the borders of Gaza and the West Bank and uses its own strict criteria about which Arabs enter.

Arab countries have refused to take in Palestinians other than those who have relevant travel documents.

Mubarak: U.S. vote harms Arab ties with Israel

ALEXANDRIA (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned Sunday that a U.S. Congress vote to move the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem would affect Arab normalisation with the Jewish state.

He said the decision, which President Bill Clinton has vowed to block, would also affect the summit on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa attended by Israel and 63 other countries in Amman on Sunday.

"Certainly, this decision will have repercussions on the Amman summit because it concerns not only Arab countries but also Islamic nations," Mr. Mubarak told reporters in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Mr. Mubarak, whose government initially played down the significance of the decision last week, said the vote on Tuesday had come at

a sensitive time after the signing of an Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on extending Palestinian self-rule.

He warned it would have "repercussions on the peace process and on the process of normalisation with countries that have concluded peace with Israel."

Mr. Mubarak, however, said he was confident that Mr. Clinton realised that the decision was not in the interests of the United States and hoped it would not stand in the way of progress in the peace process.

In Cairo, the Arab League's secretary general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, called for a mini-summit of Arab countries to discuss the congress vote to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by May 1999.

Congress has, however, allowed Mr. Clinton to suspend the move indefinitely.

Dr. Abdul Meguid, cited in the Egyptian daily Al Wafd on Sunday, said: "I expect a positive response from several parties in the region in favour of holding an Arab mini-summit."

He was to discuss the issue with Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), and other Arab leaders on the sidelines of the Amman summit.

He recalled that the league's members had responded to a similar call in May when Israel tried to seize Arab land in East Jerusalem, although that summit was cancelled after the Jewish state revoked the decision.

An Arab League source told AFP that the organisation hoped the mini-summit would be attended by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the PNA, Saudi Arabia and Morocco. Morocco chairs the Jerusalem committee of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

On Saturday the PNA appealed for an urgent meeting of the Arab League and the Jerusalem Committee to work against the Congress decision.

However, a league official said it had not yet received in writing an official request for a meeting. The Arab League, split by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, has not held a summit since that date.

Kuwait said on Sunday the U.S. Congress vote could hamper the Middle East peace process.

"The cabinet expressed regret over this decision," a cabinet statement said.

It said it took this position because of the Islamic World's feelings towards Jerusalem and the city's religious, historical and cultural significance for mankind.

MENA conference gets a positive start

(Continued from page 1)

n... for serious investment in the future of the region," said Prince Hassan, who is chairing the conference.

"The region has changed," the Crown Prince told the official and business delegates attending the gathering. "The Middle East is open for business."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is heading a delegation of 125 American companies, said that "while governments can build the foundation, it is business that has to build the lasting structure."

"For too long this has been a region of warriors and widows," said Mr. Christopher. "It once again should become a region of builders and traders."

He called the Arab World to end its boycott of Israel. Describing the boycott as "the most harmful political barrier to greater economic openness," he said, the boycott "maintains walls at a time when negotiations are bringing them down."

While agreeing on the necessity of economic liberalisation and the dismantling of economic and trade barriers, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat stressed that the Palestinian economy will need international assistance to help it become competitive in light of the crippling effect the Israeli occupation has had on it.

Mr. Arafat pointed out that the Palestinians continued to suffer economically despite their interim peace agreement with Israel. He

said the territories were sealed off for 222 days in the last 14 months.

He said that every day the border is sealed, Palestinians lose several million dollars in lost earnings and face further delays in economic development.

"We would be able to build our economy so we can participate fully in regional cooperation," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Rabin said countries could not expect large inflow of foreign capital simply because they had signed peace agreements.

"No one will come here because of our winning smiles," Mr. Rabin told the delegates. "They all want to make money."

Mr. Rabin said that the region needs to move fast to make up for lost time, adding that the efforts of the countries of the region should be directed towards the economy and improving the lives of the people.

Mr. Rabin said the region will need the cooperation of outside parties, official and private, in overcoming its economic problems and standing up to the challenges facing it.

Other speakers who addressed the opening session were Moroccan Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filal, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Kozyrev, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who is the president of the European Union's Council of Ministers, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Canadian Fore-

ign Minister Andre Ouellet, Japanese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Yasuo Fukuda and President of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab.

The common theme underlined by all the speakers was the need for cooperation in rehabilitating the economies of the Middle East region and the important role the private sector should play in the process.

"We business leaders are here to make a decisive contribution to political stability. This contribution shall be made by generating investment, joint ventures and business alliances. For this reason, we are proud that the programme integrates such a strong private dimension."

Dr. Schwab, who spoke on behalf of 1,100 businessmen who are attending the summit.

Fast, sustained economic development is what will decide the race for the hearts and minds of the masses between economic progress and revolutionary, radical fervour," he said. Achieving such development involves massive restructuring and vast amounts of capital, technology and managerial skills, foreign investment must contribute substantially to process.

"The key to marrying the east needs of the Middle East and North Africa with the demands of foreign capital lies in a dual approach — regional policies, in which governments have a major role to play, and economic liberalisation that leaves the

floor to private enterprise. Regional networks fully endorsed and backed by all governments in areas such as petroleum pipelines, electricity generation and distribution, communications, tourism and water are the best way of bridging gaps."

Addressing journalists at the end of the first day of the conference, Prince Hassan said the event was moving in the right direction, saying that many achievements have been made in the first day.

Prince Hassan pointed to the signing of agreements on the establishment of a regional business council, a Middle East and Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Agency and regional economic development working group.

"The day from our perspective has gone extremely well," Prince Hassan said.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Dennis Brown echoed the Crown Prince in praising the summit as successful, saying that "much has been made."

The plenary sessions of the summit included discussions of the role of the international community in supporting the economic underpinnings of peace building, the requirement of a successful regional business strategy, regional stock markets, trade financing, the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in creating growth and employment as well as special economic zones and water.

The conference will also discuss regional projects proposed by Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority as well as Oman and Qatar.

The conference will also discuss regional projects proposed by Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority as well as Oman and Qatar.

Accord reached on bank, regional bodies

(Continued from page 1)

officials, Amman also liked to be the base for one of the two councils.

European diplomats said Jordan was apparently seeking to ensure that the policymaking institution was as one of the two councils will be based in Amman in further discussions with the various parties involved. Such discussions could stretch until the end of the year when the articles of the regional development bank would be finalised.

The U.S. officials, in their background briefing, said the REDWG secretariat, which will be an umbrella body for all sub-committees on regional economic cooperation, will be complementary to the development bank and the

tourism and business councils as well as other related institutions.

The bank will have a capital of \$5 billion, said the officials without elaboration. But diplomats said the figure was the authorised capital and the initial paidup capital was tentatively set up at \$1.25 billion.

With the Europeans staying away from investing in the bank, the \$1.25 billion also appeared to be a high target.

Germany said the European Union was not, at this point, interested in investing in the bank. Saudi Arabia also said it was not interested. The positions of the other members of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were not immediately known. Mohammad Al Noweis, the

deputy finance and trade minister of the United Arab Emirates, was quoted by AFP that Gulf states would "wait and see what happens" before deciding whether to contribute to the bank.

"We have so many organisations which have been providing credit under excellent terms for more than 20 years," Mr. Noweis said.

"It would be better to have cooperation between these organisations which know the region's priorities rather than create a new bank."

The U.S. officials said the door was open for those who did not want to join the bank in the initial stages to sign on later.

The draft final declaration says the bank "will be structured to promote de-

velopment of the private sector, support regional infrastructure projects, and provide a forum to promote regional economic cooperation."

An international task force entrusted with establishing the bank "will finalise its negotiations by Dec. 31, 1995, and will continue to explore proposals for the creation of a project preparation and financial mediation facility," says the document.

"Those wishing to join the bank will begin their national ratification processes thereafter. Others wish to leave open the option of joining the bank at a later date, in light of the evolution of institutional arrangements and other developments."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man whipped for riding women's section of bus

TEHRAN (AFP) — A man was given 20 lashes of the whip for disguising himself as a woman to ride the women's section of a bus in Tehran, newspapers reported here Sunday. The man, identified as 31-year-old Mohsen, had braved the adventure to win a bet of 100,000 rials (\$25) he had made with his father to travel between their houses in a bus while dressed as a woman in a long coat and a scarf — bus while women here are obliged to wear to conform to Islamic standards. But he was given away by his large size and men's shoes. Several fellow passengers "extremely angered by his act" beat him up, the papers said. A court sentenced him to 20 lashes of the whip for "the ugly act and his violation of Islamic principles." There are separate sections in buses for men and women as part of a campaign to segregate sexes according to Islamic law.

Six killed in Israeli bus accident

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli bus went off the road and overturned in a ravine Saturday, killing at least six people and injuring 18, witnesses reported. They said the bus from the Jerusalem Sodom company was travelling towards the Dead Sea when it went off a winding road some 20 kilometres east of Jerusalem. Five of the injured were reported to be in serious condition. Ten Israel were killed a road accident four days ago.

Radical daily's director arrested in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Director of a newspaper representing Islamic radicals was arrested in northeastern Iran, newspapers reported here Sunday. Sadeq Javadi-Hessari was arrested Saturday after the authorities suspended publication of the popular daily Tass in the city of Mashhad in Khorasan province. However, a court in Mashhad ordered the ban lifted on the paper on Saturday. The Pans-bes international media watchdog Reporters Sans Frontieres had protested the paper's suspension in a letter to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Algeria denies urging extradition of preacher

SANAA (AFP) — The Algerian embassy here on Sunday denied having called for the extradition of an Algerian Islamic fundamentalist preacher arrested last month suspected of armed attacks in Yemen. In a letter to the Yemeni Foreign Ministry obtained by AFP, the embassy "categorically denies that a demand for the extradition of Algerian extremist Adem Saliheddin has been made by the 'ambassador or the Algerian authorities.'" A Yemeni Interior Ministry official said earlier in October that the Algerian ambassador, Chadi Ben Hadid, had submitted the request to the Sanaa authorities, but it had been turned down. Mr. Saliheddin and several of his followers were arrested on Sept. 28 in Duleh, about 80 kilometres from the southern port of Aden, after a shootout in which two policemen and an activist were killed, authorities said. The fundamentalist preacher — who has issued decrees threatening women with death if they venture out of their homes — entered Yemen as a teacher after a brief civil war that ended in July 1994. He gave up teaching to head a group of fundamentalists who were reported to have been involved in a number of incidents in September.

Turkish troops kill 38 Kurd rebels

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish security forces killed 38 Kurdish rebels and lost four of their own in fresh clashes in southeastern Turkey, the regional governor's office said on Sunday. Twenty-six guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were killed during an operation on Saturday night near Gene town in Bingol province. Four soldiers died and five others were wounded in the clash, the office said. On the same day, troops killed five PKK rebels in Cukurca town near the Iraqi border. Seven other PKK guerrillas were killed in two separate clashes in the southeastern towns of Hazro and Yuksekova.

Ethiopia expels 19 Sudanese workers — paper

KHARTOUM (R) — A Khartoum newspaper said on Sunday Ethiopia had tortured and expelled 19 Sudanese workers after months of strained diplomatic relations following an attack on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June. The privately-owned Akhbar Al Youm newspaper said the 19, who worked for Islamic organisations in Ethiopia, arrived at the eastern Sudanese town of Gaderif on Friday after being made to walk to the border. Since Sept. 1, Ethiopia has banned flights to and from Sudan and scaled down Sudan's diplomatic mission in Addis Ababa saying Khartoum refuses to hand over the person believed to have taken part in the assassination attempt on Mr. Mubarak. Sudan denies the man is within its borders and called the Ethiopian measures a plot hatched by countries wanting to spoil diplomatic relations between them.

Farmer shot dead by Egyptian militants

MINYA (AFP) — Two militants Saturday shot dead an Egyptian farmer whom they suspected of collaborating with security services in the troubled Minya province of southern Egypt, police said. The farmer was gunned down in his car by the assailants who then fled into sugar cane fields lining the road. They suspected him of supplying information on wanted Islamic militants to the police in one of the strongholds of the main outlawed armed group, the Gamaa Islamiyah. The killing brought the death toll in 900 in a campaign launched in March 1992 by the militants to topple the government.

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PROGRAMME TWO

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14:30 Hey Day
15:00 Nature World of Mitsuaki
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's programme — Cocotte Minute
17:30 — Maria Vandamme
18:00 — News in French
19:15 — Magazine — Nimbus
19:30 — News Headlines
19:35 — McHale's Navy
20:00 — Wilton
20:00 — Inventions
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 — News in English
22:25 — Inspection Morsé
23:59 — American Chart Show

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 — Sunrise
05:28 — Sunrise
11:19 — Dhulh
14:25 — Asr
16:33 — Maghrib
18:11 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440,
De la Salle Church Tel. 617577
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541,
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331,
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261,
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751,
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226,
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 813238,
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691,
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail becoming cool at night with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 11/23
Agaba 18/28
Desert 10/25

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 17/29

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 24, Agaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Agaba 50 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 649028
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 649028
Dr. Usamah Hussini 847289
Dr. Isam Al Asmar 890504
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 626720
Yasoub pharmacy 648455
Shmiciam pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qana 649028
Alquds pharmacy 649028

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 607111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Right Information 08-53230
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53330

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhus, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiciam 607071
Shmiciam Hospital 669131
University Hospital 645845
Al-Muasher Hospital 662279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/30
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)985323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)980730
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)980732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)989990
IRBID:
Princess Banaa Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)277275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)271000
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:20 — Sanaw (RJ)
08:00 — Damascus (RJ)
08:30 — Jeddah (RJ)
09:00 — New Delhi (RJ)
09:10 — Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 — Agaba (RJ)
09:30 — Beirut (RJ)
16:15 — Jeddah (RJ)
16:45 — New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05 — Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
18:10 — Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:30 — Bangkok, Jakarta (RJ)
22:00 — Milan, Agaba (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 — Cairo (MS)
09:50 — Khartoum (SD)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:40 — Beirut (RJ)
07:00 — Agaba (RJ)
11:00 — Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:30 — Milan (add) (RJ)
12:10 — Cairo (RJ)
12:20 — London (RJ)
12:30 — Frankfurt (RJ)
12:40 — Jeddah (add) (RJ)
13:00 — Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:15 — Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:30 — Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:30 — Damascus (RJ)
23:30 — Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 — Istanbul (TK)
07:50 — London (BA)
07:50 — Rome (AZ)
07:45 — Beirut (ME)
11:00 — Cairo (MS)
13:30 — Khartoum (SD)
14:30 — Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:50 — New York (AA)
06:40 — Damascus, London (BA)
07:30 — Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 — Beirut, Athens (OA)</

Buses roll out of Sarajevo; Croats go to legislative polls

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Buses began rolling along the main road west out of Sarajevo on Sunday as the siege of the city eased little by little, but U.S. mediator Richard Holbrooke warned a lasting peace was far off.

Diplomats scrambled to prevent Serb-Croat fighting in eastern Croatia as voters chose a new parliament expected to give even more power to their authoritarian president.

The United States has handed over new evidence to the international war crimes court on the alleged Bosnian Serb slaughter of Muslim men around the enclave of Srebrenica in July, the Washington Post reported.

Reconnaissance photos and other intelligence material show some half dozen mass grave sites in addition to those already disclosed where Bosnian Muslims and human rights groups said thousands were killed after the U.N. "safe haven" fell on July 11.

President Alija Izetbegovic will lead the Bosnian government's delegation to peace talks in Ohio to begin Wednesday, Bosnia-Herzegovina radio announced.

Other Muslims in the joint Muslim-Croat delegation include Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, Foreign Minister Mohammad Sacirbey and Miro Lazovic, speaker of the Bosnia-Herzegovina parliament.

The Bosnian Croats in the delegation include Kresimir Zubak, president of the Muslim-Croat Federation created last year to end a bitter war between Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, voting in parliamentary elections, reiterated a Nov. 30 deadline for rebel Serbs in the last swathe of rebel-held land to return to Croatia or face a new war.

Eastern Slavonia will come back to Croatia by peaceful means or by the use of force, but "the deadline is the end of November," he told reporters after casting his ballot in polls for a new Croatian parliament.

The rebel Serbs holed up in Eastern Slavonia, a tiny strip of Croatian land on its border with Serbia, Saturday rejected a proposed peace deal brokered by Washington and the United States for the area's peaceful reintegration, saying it contained "unacceptable" points, notably a timetable of Zagreb's resumption of control.

The first passenger buses in 42 months left Sarajevo on the main road west under U.N. escort, after a truce agreement under which the warring factions are to guarantee freedom of movement to all civilians.

U.N. officials want the roads as open as possible to create a good atmosphere for the peace talks. Bosnia's government says in reality the city is still blockaded as civilians feel it is too dangerous to cross Serb-held territory.

With the negotiations to open on Wednesday, chief U.S. negotiator Holbrooke warned all sides were hardening their positions and said: "We are very far from an agreement."

He warned the Bosnian Serbs could not insist on their right to secede a future Bosnia, one of their declared demands. "There will be no peace if that is their position," he said.

Mr. Holbrooke, interviewed by Reuters in Washington, said that, in an effort to ensure Bosnia was not partitioned, NATO forces would be deployed along international borders as well as internally if a peace accord was reached.



Residents look at a five-storey building gutted when a booby-trapped truck blew up on Sunday in Rouiba, 15 kilometres outside Algiers, killing at least six people and wounding 93 (AFP photo)

Blast kills 8, injures 83 in Algeria

ROUIBA, Algeria (Agencies) — Six people were killed and 98 injured when a booby-trapped truck blew up in Rouiba, 15 kilometres east of Algiers, state radio reported.

An earlier toll put the number of wounded at 83. Six of the injured are in a serious condition, the radio said.

The force of the blast almost entirely destroyed a five-storey building opposite a gendarmerie headquarters, around 5:15 a.m. (0415 GMT). Echoes were heard as far away as Algiers.

The attack came just hours after President Liamine Zerrouk officially launched his election campaign ahead of the first round of the presidential polls on Nov. 16.

In a televised speech Saturday night, Mr. Zerrouk, the front-runner, called on Algerians to "fight terrorism."

The Armed Islamic Group, the most radical rebel organisation fighting Algeria's military-backed regime, has claimed responsibility for some bombings and assassinations in the past and is active in the Rouiba region.

Radical groups have stepped up bombings and attacks on government forces in an effort to foil the first round of presidential elections Nov. 16. Most political parties are boycotting the vote.

Algeria's civil war broke out in January 1992 after the army cancelled legislative elections that a Muslim fundamentalist party was poised to win. More than 30,000 people have been killed.

A police station, located 20 metres from the truck bomb, that exploded Sunday, apparently was the target of the attack. Also destroyed was a five-storey residential building adjacent to the station.

Islamic Jihad vows revenge for Shaqaqi; Israel on high alert

GAZA (Agencies) — The militant Islamic Jihad group on Sunday vowed to take revenge including suicide bombings after a suspected Israeli Mossad hit squad killed its leader Fathi Shaqaqi in Malta.

The Israeli army and police were placed on full alert as protests swept the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the news that Shaqaqi, 43, had been gunned down Thursday on the Mediterranean island of Malta.

Islamic Jihad blamed the Israeli secret service Mossad, and Israeli radio said Shaqaqi had long been a target.

"We will take revenge wherever it is in the world," said the fundamentalist group which has waged a violent campaign aimed at wrecking the Israeli-Palestinian Organisation (PLO) self-rule accords.

"We assure the Zionists and their leader (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin that this repugnant crime has turned every Zionist wherever he is on the earth into a target for our fighters and our suicide bombers."

The Jihad said it had elected a new head, Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, 40, who lives in Lebanon.

There was no confirmation of any Israeli involvement in the killing, but Rabin said: "If the man who was killed was indeed Fathi Shaqaqi, I would not be sorry."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in Amman for a Middle East economic summit, said: "He who takes the risk of assassinating (Israelis) also takes the risk of being assassinated."

Shaqaqi was born in the teeming Rafah refugee camp in Gaza and helped form Islamic Jihad in the early 1980s. Israel arrested him in 1985 and expelled him to Lebanon three years later.

The PLO, Israel's peace partner, urged Islamic Jihad to refrain from attacking Israel, saying this could jeopardise the expansion of Palestinian self-rule now under way in the West Bank.

"We appeal to Islamic Jihad to exercise self-restraint so that some hard-line groups in Israel would not achieve their goal of halting implementation of the agreement," said Tayeb Abdul Rahim, general secretary of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

At the Islamic university in Gaza on Sunday, a thousand students pounded their hearts with their fists and shouted, "Down with the olive branch, take up arms," while some of them burned Israeli and U.S. flags.

Islamic activist Ahmad Turuk told them the assassination had rekindled the torch of holy struggle.

It was not the first time Israel was keeping quiet about its possible role in such a killing. Arabs accuse Israel of hunting down activists from anti-Israeli militant groups going back decades, most famously the

killers of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Israeli intelligence services are also believed to be behind the killing of three Jihad leaders in Cyprus.

Dozens of mourning supporters visited the dead man's family home at Rafah, where a banner slung across the house facade said: "The Zionists must know that the sons of Islamic Jihad are grenades ready to explode."

Jihad official Sheikh Nafez Azzam admitted the killing had damaged the group: "It is a cataclysm which has hit the Palestinian people, the Arabs and the Muslims. Israel has without doubt struck a hard blow against the movement."

The Jihad leader had been in Malta on his way back to Damascus, where he was based, after talks in Libya with Libyan leader Moamar Qadhafi about 1,000 Palestinians stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border.

Iraq frees Saudis and Kuwaitis jailed for illegal entry to country

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Iraq has freed four Saudi Arabians and three Kuwaitis who were imprisoned for illegally entering the country, the Interior Ministry said Sunday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Adel Al Tahir, the ministry spokesman, told the Kuwaiti News Agency the men were released "as a result of relentless efforts by the Kuwaiti government in cooperation with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross."

He identified the Kuwaitis as Ahmad and Mohammad Al Azimi who went missing in February, and Fahad Al Rashidi, who strayed across the border in May 1993.

The spokesman did not say if the men had served their full prison terms.

The Saudis were identified as Fahm Al Shimmiri, Assi Al Shimmiri, Fares Al Thafiri and Farhan Al Shimmiri. It was not clear if they had entered Iraq from Kuwait or from Saudi Arabia.

Earlier this month, another Kuwaiti returned home after serving a prison sentence in Iraq for illegal entry.

The desert frontier between Kuwait and Iraq has been closed since the end of the Gulf war that liberated

Kuwait in February 1991 from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

The border, marked by pillars and a trench, has been patrolled by U.N. observers since the war.

A senior Kuwaiti official warned Saturday the international community must force Iraq to pay compensation for its occupation of Kuwait.

Adel Assam, the head of the Kuwaiti commission evaluating the compensation due, told a press conference that "if Iraq does not fulfil its commitments, the U.N. Compensation Commission will find itself unable to complete its task to dozens of thousands of people."

Kuwait has so far claimed \$104 billion in damages for individuals and public and private sectors hit by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion.

Under U.N. resolutions Iraq is obliged to pay out all damages resulting from the occupation by allocating part of its future oil revenues to meet the claims.

Mr. Assam added that the compensation for ecological damage was "very high and have still not been evaluated," but added that a study prepared by the commission had estimated the losses at

"around 90 million dinars" (\$270 million).

Iraqi troops set fire to 730 oil wells, which burned for months, and sabotaged the main oil installations as they fled from the international coalition.

Another Kuwaiti official said hundreds of Kuwaitis who were injured or lost relatives in the Iraqi occupation and the 1991 Gulf war will receive reparations before the end of the year.

"Around \$3.6 million will be distributed most probably by December," a member of a state committee for assessing war damages told the Associated Press. He did not want to be named.

The Geneva-based U.N. Compensation Commission charged with the task of redressing victims of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, recently approved payment for 1,346 claims, the official said.

That would be the second group of Kuwaitis to receive war reparations. About 300 were handed cheques Aug. 2, 1994, the fourth anniversary of the Iraqi invasion.

The first payment totalled \$1.3 million with minimum compensation for injury or loss of a family member at \$2,500.

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الوكلاء والموزعون: فؤاد أبو جابر وأولاده
المكاتب: عمان - هاتف: ٨٩٣٠٢٠ - فاكس: ٨٩١٢٠٥ - ٦٥٩٢٣٥ تليكس ٢٣٢٣١
الزرقاء - المنطقة الحرة هاتف: ٩/٩١٦٠٥٢ - الوحدات - هاتف: ٧٨١٨٤٤ فاكس: ٧٥٣٦٢٥

Reality of peace found in deeds, not words

The following is the speech delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the opening of the Amman economic summit Sunday:

ON BEHALF of President Clinton and the United States, I want to express my deep gratitude to King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and the people of Jordan for hosting this Economic Summit.

Your Majesty, for four decades, you have been a force for peace in a region that has known so much war. You have infused your kingdom with a spirit of civility and tolerance. And working together with Prime Minister Rabin, Chairman Arafat, President Mubarak, King Hassan, and others, your vision and courage is transforming the Middle East.

Four short years ago, the Madrid Conference launched a process that has demonstrated that negotiations can succeed. Enemies can become partners. And across lands whose ancient religions have long inspired humanity, peace can prevail.

One month ago in Washington, we witnessed another historic agreement between the prime minister of Israel and the chairman of the PLO. Building on the 1993 Declaration of Principles, the deal they signed marks a great step forward toward the shining goal of Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation.

And just one year ago, in the desert south of Amman, the world watched as you, Your Majesty, and Prime Minister Rabin built a bridge of peace between your two peoples. Last week, Israel and Jordan signed agreements on agriculture, economic cooperation, and development in the Gulf of Aqaba — agreements that will bring the concrete benefits of peace.

If these accomplishments are to be truly secure, peace must be comprehensive. It must be extended to include both Syria and Lebanon. Today, I want to reaffirm, on behalf of President Clinton, that the United States will continue to work with the parties to help them achieve a breakthrough for peace.

We also know that peace must reach beyond diplomats and documents. Agreements between governments are the basis of peace. But the reality of peace is found in deeds, not words. Peace is the construction boom in Gaza, a four-fold increase in foreign investment in Israel, the desalination centre planned in Oman, and the tour package jointly promoted by El Al and Royal Jordanian Airlines.

For too long, this has been a region of warriors and widows. Let it again become a region of builders and traders. Let its future be shaped by the imagination and ingenuity of its entrepreneurs, the knowledge and curiosity of its children, and the wisdom and memory of its peoples.

This vision of a prosperous peace first brought us together a year ago in Casablanca. Here in Amman, we will fulfill the pledges we made in Casablanca. We will launch a series of regional institutions that share an overarching purpose — to improve the ability of the private sector to do business in the Middle East, and to promote the region's economic development and integration.

First, we will create the Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Bank's establishment is a major milestone — not least because it is the first such initiative put forward by the parties to the peace process themselves. Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians, and Israel all agreed on the need for a bank that would support the region's most worthy private sector projects, promote privatisation and widening economic reform.

The United States is committed to ensuring that the Bank meets these critical needs, and that it is governed by strict rules of accountability. The Bank must complement, not duplicate, the efforts of other institutions such as the World Bank. The Bank must learn from the experience of similar regional institutions. We will work with our partners in the region and the international community to make sure that the Bank succeeds.

Second, this summit will establish the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association. Open to governments and private firms everywhere, the Association will harness the world's largest industry — and one of its best sources of hard currency earnings — as a catalyst of regional economic growth. It will encourage cooperation within the region, and support its integration into global tourism networks.

In these lands of miracles and monuments are the red temples of Petra, the golden colonnades of Palmyra, the Roman ruins of Caesarea, the vast amphitheatre of Carthage, the giant thrones of Abu Simbel. Peace should throw the wonders of the Middle East open to the world. Already Jordan's tourism revenues have doubled in the year since it made peace with Israel. Other nations can do the same.

Third, we will launch the Regional Business Council with leaders from private business and government. The Council will be a permanent forum for exchanging information, developing investment opportunities, and encouraging a world-class business environment. I want to acknowledge the role of my Cabinet colleague, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, in establishing this voice for business in the region.

Here in Amman, we must also go beyond our work at Casablanca. We must reinforce our public-private sector partnership for peace and foster patterns of commercial cooperation across the Middle East. Governments have a responsibility to lay the foundations for peace and prosperity. But the private sector has the opportunity to build the structure of a lasting peace reinforced by rising prosperity.

This public-private partnership is based on three mutually reinforcing pillars: first, the private sector; second, countries outside the region that have been at the forefront of efforts to support the peace process; and third, governments in the region. Let me briefly describe the unique challenges that each must meet.

The private sector must recognise and seize the business opportunities that peace is creating. The fact that hundreds of businesspeople have come to Amman is evidence that they are doing just that.

I am proud to say that among them are more than 125 American companies, many of whom are leading the way. Lockheed-Martin will conduct a feasibility study for a regional airport that will link Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel. The communications firms Sprint and AT&T will announce joint ventures with Jordanian partners to hook Jordan up with the information superhighway. Culligan Water Technologies will sign an agreement to manufacture bottled water in Jericho. And General Electric is close to finalising a large contract to supply Egypt with locomotives.

Ladies and gentlemen: Last year we announced that the Middle East was open for business. This year we declare that the Middle East is doing business.

As the peace process pushes on, agreement by agreement, the risks for business diminish, day by day. Business can profit while making a decisive contribution at a moment of rare historic opportunity.

At the same time, governments from outside the Middle East must do their part to accelerate the momentum of private sector involvement. The United States will continue to work with its friends around the world to promote the region's prosperity. We look especially to the European Union and Japan to continue their significant contributions to this effort.

For our part, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Exim Bank, and the Trade and Development Administration are working hard to ensure that American companies can take full advantage of regional trade and investment opportunities. These agencies are funding feasibility studies, providing investment guarantees, and offering risk insurance. OPIC, for exam-

ple, is capitalising a \$250 million regional fund for the Middle East and North Africa.

The United States has also launched a number of important bilateral initiatives with key regional parties. With the Palestinians, we have helped to mobilise the international donor effort, and pledged \$500 million in American assistance. Our Trade Representative Mickey Kantor has just finalised an agreement with the Palestinian Authority to allow exports from the West Bank and Gaza duty-free access to the American market. With Jordan, we are considering a bilateral investment treaty, and we have forgiven more than \$700 million of Jordanian debt to the United States. And with Egypt, we have launched a pathbreaking joint partnership for economic growth and development under the leadership of President Mubarak and Vice President Gore.

Of course, it is the governments in the region that bear the greatest responsibility for making the Middle East a world-class business environment. In the past, there has been far too much government regulation and inefficient public investment. Local private capital has fled the region and foreign capital has found greater incentives elsewhere.

To their credit, many governments in the region are now taking bold steps to put their economic house in order. Tunisia and Morocco, for example, have embraced a real economic reform. In the last decade, privatisation, deregulation, budget discipline, and currency reform, among other steps, have produced impressive leaps in economic growth in both countries. Not surprisingly, the private sector has responded. Between 1989 and 1994, direct foreign investment in Morocco more than tripled.

Jordan is another nation taking important steps toward reform. Its new investment code will give foreign firms the legal protections they need to take advantage of Jordan's many opportunities.

I also call on the region's governments to remove the most harmful political barrier to greater economic openness. The boycott against Israel maintains walls at a time when negotiations are bringing them down. It impedes regional economic integration. The boycott serves no one. While the boycott is being dismantled and many of the countries here no longer observe it, the moment is right to end the boycott completely.

The Middle East is on the verge of reconnecting its rich past to the boundless possibilities of the future. For centuries, this region witnessed the constant movement of people, ideas, and goods across its borders. Linen, glassware, olive oil, incense, pungent spices and precious metals were traded across the deserts and over the seas. The world passed through the Middle East, and the Middle East passed through the world.

Today we see this legacy in the Arabic numerals the world uses to count and in the coffee, first ground from Arabica beans, that the world loves to drink. And we see this legacy in the words we use — for damask cloth from Damascus and gauze from Gaza.

All these steps are essential if the region is to attract the skills and capital of international business. Now is the time for the Middle East to prepare to compete in the global economy. Now is the time for the Middle East to reinvent itself for the twenty-first century.

As we approach a new millennium, we can revive the trading routes of centuries past, and create new ones for today. Caravans of culture and commerce can travel by air, by fax, by microchip, and along the information superhighway.

The Middle East also has old words to return to the world — and most of all to itself. Let Salaam and Shalom become the watchwords of a prosperous new Middle East at peace. A year ago in Casablanca, I borrowed a line from Humphrey Bogart when I suggest that the first Summit could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Allow me now to borrow once again from the spirit of that famous movie. Today, in Amman, it is time to play it again, Sam.

Palestinians put \$6.3b plans to investors

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Palestinian officials at the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit that opened Sunday have a precise figure in their heads for what it will take to get their ailing economy up and flourishing — \$6.35 billion.

That is the sum total of the wish list of officials, undaunted by past donor lethargy, have compiled of projects to lure international investors.

The list covers both Palestinian Authority and private sector projects and ranges from a hairroom ceramics factory to a health spa on the Dead Sea and an international airport in Gaza.

But most of their interest is in replacing and modernising the battered infrastructure the new authority has inherited after nearly 30 years of Israeli military occupation, compounded by eight years of violent political unrest in the intifada or Palestinian uprising.

"We are handicapped compared to other regional parties as a result of the (Israeli) occupation, and developing our infrastructure is a must to be able to deal with the region," Samir Abdullah, a leading Palestinian economist involved in the preparation of the list, told Reuters.

Palestinian officials said the largest allocation of \$1.93 billion goes to water projects, reflecting the scarce resource's vital importance to

economic development of the Palestinians.

The centerpiece is a \$1.5 billion canal which aims to divert water supplies from the West Bank to water-parched Gaza.

A private sector power project in Gaza and an electricity grid linking Palestinian areas with Jordan and Egypt are the main energy projects.

The Palestinian list also includes plans for highway networks to link the new Middle East of trade, including a "riviera" highway from Ismailia in Egypt to Ashdod in southern Israel, via self-ruled Gaza, and another road linking Gaza with Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba.

The proposed international airport in Gaza, along with a port on the Mediterranean,

would cost a cool \$179 million.

Other projects include setting up a Palestinian stock exchange, industrial estates, and tourism projects costing at nearly \$1 billion including beach front apartments in Gaza and a health spa at the Dead Sea.

Palestinian officials put forward the mammoth financing proposals despite donors' past slowness in stumping up pledges to help get the Palestinian Authority itself off the ground.

International donors vouched some \$2.5 billion of assistance when the PLO and Israel first made peace two years ago but the authority spent its first months virtually bankrupt as donors delayed payments and worried about

accountability. A delegation of over 50 Palestinian businessmen threatened to boycott the Amman summit to make a point about what they described as Israeli attempts to "strangle their economy."

But Mohammad Mastouji, head of Jerusalem Pharmaceuticals, put a positive spin on Palestinian investment prospects. "The possibility of attracting capital is weak if it is compared to the resources of our neighbours... but we have an advantage in that Palestine is virgin land for investment, needing nearly everything and so the chance to start there is a valuable opportunity for investors, as returns are higher."

Israel '96 budget up on W. Bank redeployment

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's treasury said Sunday it was proposing a 3.1 per cent rise in the state budget in 1996 to help pay for the army's redeployment in the West Bank and Israeli social services.

Finance Minister Aharon Shohat briefed reporters on details of the \$57.6 billion budget proposal to be

brought to parliament Monday.

According to the proposal, Israel's total spending, deducting debt repayment, will grow in real terms by 3.1 per cent in 1996 compared with 1995, to cover an increase in defence spending due to redeployment and a rise in funding of social services.

Jordanians complain of low wages, uneasy working conditions

▲ A LARGE sector of the labour market suffers from low salaries which range between JD 35 to JD 60 per month. This sector comprises workers in the private schools, sewing workshops, confectionaries, dairy plants, nurseries as well as secretaries, messengers and assistant pharmacists. These workers are aware of the labour legislations that protect their rights but they cannot exercise them of fear that they might not get a job to cover the minimum requirements for living. Bassam Maani, manager of Al Amin Clothing Factory, says that one third of all workers in the textile industry are foreigners who accept low pay, much less than what a local labourer would accept. Mr. Maani estimates the number of workers in the textile sector at 30,000, supporting about 150,000 persons, most of them working for low pay. He says that a girl would start working for JD 40 a month and her pay goes up to JD 60 after two years.

Iyad Azzah, manager of Al Azzah textile Workshop, confirms that the low wages are paid and points out that working hours stretch from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Should work stop for any reason, wages are not paid until the stoppage period is deducted, he says. "Obviously there is an exploitation to the workers' situation," Amneh, a teacher at a private school, says. "I get paid JD 30 a month for teaching despite having signed a contract that my salary is JD 90 according to the terms set by the Ministry of Labour." She adds: "Despite knowing that injustice has been done to me, I have agreed to this situation because the alternative is to sit at home unemployed." Amneh asserts that she is not the only one facing this problem as there are many who are forced to do other duties, the least of which being to accompany the student to their homes after classes.

Jamil, a worker at a dairy plant, works from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. for JD 57 a month. He says he had accepted this job because he could not tolerate being unemployed at home. "But, after experience, I found out that sitting at home is more honourable and I may be resigning before the article appears in your paper," Jamil adds.

At a clinic, the secretary of a doctor says it is extreme injustice when a secretary gets paid JD 35 or JD 50 which acting as an occupation for about JD 5,000 of the doctor's income each month. She complains that secretaries are forced to work on holidays without pay and that leaves are granted according to doctors' moods.

Another secretary says some doctors or other employers are seeking a maid under the title of a secretary to clean the office and prepare coffee or tea. She adds: "They (employers) do not recognise any annual raises at all and do not pay for overtime work." In short, she explains, this job is not rewarding, does not include health insurance and does not carry any social security, pension or compensation.

Salem Hijazin, head of the association of workers in the health services, says a good number of secretaries earn between JD 30 and JD 40 per month and work for long hours. He says the situation is also bad for assistant pharmacists as there are some 5,000 of them unemployed. (Al Ra'i).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIAN									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST									
29/10/1995									
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	PREV. CLOSING	TRADING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING	TRADING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING	TRADING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING
ARAB BANK P.C.	140	33735	240,500	240,750					
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	200	888	4,410	4,440					
CHIPS ANDERSON BANK	2050	3220	4,500	4,400					
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1050	2510	2,350	2,390					
THE HOUSING BANK	5000	22700	4,780	4,540					
JORDAN CULY BANK	33100	34615	1,150	1,150					
BUSINESS BANK	2000	6720	3,380	3,380					
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1000	18045	3,710	3,720					
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	22562	23318	1,010	1,050					
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	3900	6120	1,530	1,590					
BANKS SECTOR	72094	158637	INDEX NUMBER: 150.48	CHANGE: -0.11%					
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14064	23535	1,650	1,680					
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	117	673	5,880	5,780					
JORDAN NATIONAL TELEPHONE	2000	5245	2,660	2,600					
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1500	3075	2,030	2,050					
UNION MIDDLE EAST & CONDOMINIUM HOTELS	4400	10426	2,370	2,380					
ARAB ENTER. FOR RECREATION & EDUCATION	3950	12553	3,290	3,290					
ARAB UNIVERSITY	4250	5875	1,310	1,330					
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	5050	5603	1,100	1,110					
SERVICES SECTOR	35331	67182	INDEX NUMBER: 128.18	CHANGE: +0.20%					
ATTACHEE CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	550	660	1,210	1,200					
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	13077	48466	3,650	3,710					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1117	3942	3,400	3,400					
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1117	3942	3,400	3,400					
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	468	2214	4,650	4,790					
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	200	1440	7,100	7,200					
JORDAN AERIAL INDUSTRIES	1000	8565	5,300	5,400					
LIVESTOCK & WOOLTRY	113650	80441	680	700					
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	6250	8933	1,400	1,430					
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1630	1727	1,050	1,060					
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INDUSTRIES	2250	5330	1,850	1,870					
JORDAN ROCKWELL INDUSTRIES	500	130	1,850	1,870					
JORDAN SUBRO-CHEMICALS	1850	2415	1,290	1,310					
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1500	2995	1,980	2,000					
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1500	2955	1,980	1,970					
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	380	393	1,850	1,870					
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	16400	24079	1,440	1,480					
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	10150	20402	2,000	2,010					
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	378980	219500	INDEX NUMBER: 124.77	CHANGE: +1.06%					
GRAND TOTAL	223405	445319	INDEX NUMBER: 150.06	CHANGE: +0.28%					
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN AMMAN MARKET									
VALUE TRADED IN JORDANIAN MARKET									
216751									

UPI and BBC Monitoring form alliance

DUBAI — United Press International (UPI) and BBC Monitoring have agreed to a joint marketing relationship to offer Middle Eastern news products for real-time delivery on the UPI global satellite network.

"Our combined Middle East services will make-up one of the most comprehensive news and information services for media, business and other interested parties in the region," said Rosy Wolfe, director of international marketing for BBC Monitoring.

The BBC and UPI identified the importance of this type of information for the public and private sectors in the region and around the world, continued Ms. Wolfe. "BBC Monitoring's products are respected throughout the world and with UPI's satellite delivery and superb software platform, UPI World View, our service can now reach the customers as soon as the news becomes available, increasing the value of our information significantly."

BBC Monitoring, part of the BBC World Service, was established in 1939 to monitor political and economic developments reported by the world's broadcasters and local media to provide a global news and information service.

UPI has maintained world-class reporting from nearly every country since 1907, and for the last decade has been at the forefront of information delivery technology. UPI World View software for Windows, introduced to the Gulf at GITEX 1994, allows users to select only the news they want from a variety of UPI delivered information sources.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (Oct. 23 - Oct. 27, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit appreciated noticeably against the yen last week, while appreciating modestly against the mark and depreciating against sterling. It ended the week 1.44 per cent higher against the yen, 0.78 per cent higher against the mark, and 0.29 per cent lower against sterling.

The dollar witnessed modest losses against other major currencies Monday. Reports indicated that the dollar's weakness was attributed to the mark's strength, which rose on concerns of political instability in some European countries. The mark rose against the Italian lira on expectations that the Italian prime minister might resign if the Italian parliament passed a no confidence vote in its upcoming meeting on Thursday. Meanwhile, the mark rose against the French franc on news that a French lawyer asked the government to investigate the issue of the rent that the French president pays.

The U.S. unit rose against the mark and the yen Tuesday, while stabilising against sterling. The dollar benefited from comments by Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, who said that the recent fluctuations in the currency market were exaggerated. He also pointed out that the Bundesbank is willing to participate in concerted interventions in the future. Analysts indicated that the timing of these comments was to rebuff the belief that the Bundesbank is not concerned about the mark's recent appreciation against the dollar.

The dollar depreciated against the mark and sterling Wednesday, however, while appreciating against the yen. Analysts indicated that the dollar's rise against the yen came on the back of strong demand for U.S. denominated assets from Japanese investors. Meanwhile, in an effort to bolster the dollar, Mr. Tietmeyer pointed out that the dollar's exchange rates do not reflect the prevailing economic fundamentals.

The U.S. unit continued its depreciation against other major currencies Thursday. The dollar came under pressure as the Mexican peso tumbled on investors' worries about the performance of the Mexican economy. The dollar rose against other major currencies at the end of the week, however. Reports indicated that the dollar rose after the release of the U.S. GDP figures, showing an annualised rise of 4.2 per cent in the 3rd quarter, compared to a rise of 1.3 per cent in the 2nd quarter. News that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, was taken to a hospital prompted dealers to square long mark positions and buy safe haven dollars.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4085 marks, 101.80 yen and at \$1.5780 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Friday Oct. 20, 1995	Friday Oct. 27, 1995	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5735	1.5780	0.29 %
Deutsche Mark	1.3975	1.4085	(0.78) %
Swiss Franc	1.1410	1.1380	0.26 %
French Franc	4.9140	4.8825	0.65 %
Japanese Yen	100.33	101.80	(1.44) %

* USD Per STD

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	Oct. 20, 1995		Oct. 27, 1995	
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.65	5.72	5.65	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.62	7.18	6.60	6.81
Deutsche Mark	5.96	3.96	4.00	4.00
Swiss Franc	1.87	2.06	1.75	1.81
French Franc	6.57	6.50	6.64	0.15
Japanese Yen	0.20	0.03	0.50	0.65

Agreement signed for bromine plant

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On the fringes of the three-day Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit under way in Amman, agreements for two important regional projects were concluded yesterday. Ministers from eight countries signed an agreement to set up a regional tourism board and the potash companies of Jordan and Israel agreed to start joint production of bromine on the Dead Sea.

The heads of the Arab Potash Company and the Israeli Dead Sea Bromine Company reached a joint agreement to establish a joint bromine factory on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, to be called the Middle East Bromine Company, said Shalom Tourgeman, second secretary of press and cultural affairs at the Israeli embassy in Amman.

The company should start operations in three years, Mr. Tourgeman said, adding that the company's launching capital is \$50 million, with both Jordanians and Israelis contributing \$25 million. Production of the Middle East Bromine Company, which will have a joint Israeli-Jordanian management, is expected to reach 25,000 tonnes of bromine per year. The company will employ 250 workers, with recruitment expected to be from both countries. Also alongside the MENA

conference, ministers from Jordan, Israel, Egypt, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Tunisia, Turkey and Cyprus initialled a charter to establish the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMTTA). The charter was developed under the auspices of the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

The aim of MEMTTA will be to coordinate tourist activities in the region, specifically in the areas of marketing and the training of manpower to be employed in tourism. The association will also create a database for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, Mr. Tourgeman said.

According to information released by the United States Information Service (USIS), MEMTTA is a new kind of public-private partnership that ties government and private sector organisations in a common effort to make possible the movement of people across borders to visit on business and pleasure. The association's primary mission is to increase environmentally sustainable travel to and within the region had to develop the tourism industry serving the region, the USIS press release stated.

According to Mr. Tourgeman, MEMTTA will begin to recruit members from the public and the private sector once the MENA summit is over, in order to prepare for the association's first meeting in May of next year.

\$370 electricity grid project proposed at MENA summit

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The power system interconnection, linking the electricity grids of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Palestine National Authority is one of Jordan's 27 government project proposals being presented at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

The energy sector's project facilities will be built in two major phases which are estimated to cost a total of \$370.4 million and the scheduled completion date for the whole project is the end of 1999.

Phase I will connect electric power grids of Jordan with that of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and Israel.

The estimated capital cost of the first phase is \$240 million, of which the Jordanian component amounts to around \$152 million. The Kingdom hopes for external financing for 80 per cent (about \$120 million), while the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) will meet the remaining costs.

Much of the costs calculated for the Jordanian part of Phase I will be incurred through "essential system reinforcement."

In the meantime, a grid link is currently under construction between the Egyptian and Jordanian Red Sea ports of Taba and Aqaba, and is expected to be operational in 1997.

Phase II of the project to be debated over the next two days of the summit is the grid

interconnection of Egypt, the PNA and Israel. The estimated capital cost of this second phase amounts to \$129.9 million.

Estimated operational and maintenance costs of the projects are 1.2 per cent of capital costs. The JEA's generating plants are entirely dependent on thermal energy — oil gas and the national grid is currently 132 kilovolt (KV), but the main Aqaba-Amman transmission facilities should be upgraded to 400 KV by 1997 to maintain the technical integrity of the interconnected regional system. At either end of the Aqaba-Amman line substations will be constructed.

The JEA is presently undergoing privatisation, as a consequence of a Cabinet decision taken in early 1994, and should be completed by the end of the year.

The Kingdom's electrical consumption has multiplied five-fold in the last 14 years, from 1,000 mega Watt hours (GWh) to 5,000 GWh, representing an average growth rate of 11.8 per cent annually.

This is attributable to population growth and a 99 per cent increase in public access to electricity, in addition to the establishment of large energy-intensive industries such as cement, potash and phosphates.

High consumption rates and almost total dependence on imported oil present the energy sector with its greatest problems.

Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the occupied territories have

each of their electric grid main load and generation centres within a radius of less than 300 kilometres.

One outcome of the peace process was the Regional Economic Working Group which agreed in 1994 to initiate preparations for the electric power grid interconnection of all four areas.

The interconnection's objectives are to: Reactivate historic Jordan/Palestinian relations; provide an alternative power supply to the PNA; facilitate bilateral exchanges of power to the technical needs of and economic benefits for each partner; and permit single directional power transport and reduction of network losses. Interconnection will also allow for greater efficiency of system operations.

The project will be overseen by an international firm of engineering management consultants that is accountable to a steering committee comprised of power system decision-makers from each of the four parties involved.

Provided that funding is secured in the next few months, construction should begin by the end of 1997 and would be completed within two years.

The project's principle benefits are the avoidance of installation costs, along with operating and maintaining about 575 mega Watts of new generating capacity reserve in the region, otherwise required by the year 2000.

Until such time as financing is secured, the implementation of Phase I of the project will be stalled.

King rejects implicit Egyptian criticism

(Continued from page 1)

all that to which we have committed ourselves," said the King, adding that Jordan was seeking a just and lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Responding to a question on Mr. Musa's remarks, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said: "I do not know of any Jordanian-Egyptian differences. There are meetings to look for new frameworks for strengthening the Jordanian-Egyptian relationship."

Prince Hassan said economic solutions are not an alternative to political solutions but help in building stability.

In his remarks, the King pointed to Egypt's request for holding the next economic summit but indicated that it might be more suitable to hold it in the Gulf as one Gulf country had offered to host it.

Qatar is reported to have made a bid for hosting the next MENA summit.

The King reiterated that Jordan fully supports the Palestinian people so that they regain their legitimate rights on their homeland. He said that the Kingdom supports the Palestinian people in their effort to build their own independent state.

Addressing the question of Jerusalem, the King said: "We wish that Jerusalem will be the symbol of Israeli-

Palestinian peace and the peace among the sons of Abraham."

Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had referred to their dispute over Jerusalem in their speeches to the opening session.

Mr. Arafat strongly criticised the U.S. Congress for endorsing a bill calling for moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, saying the Congress' decision contradicts international resolutions and could jeopardise the peace process.

"We had hoped that the U.S. Congress would view Jerusalem, our capital, as a united city for peace and love for the three monotheistic religions," Mr. Arafat said. But taking the floor immediately after Mr. Arafat, Mr.

Rabin bluntly stated that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

"I arrived in Amman hours ago from Jerusalem, the capital of Israel," Mr. Rabin said.

Other political issues that seemed to have thrown their shadow over the summit were the deadlocked negotiations on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks.

Syria and Lebanon are staying away from the summit as their peace talks with Israel remain stalled. The two countries are also boycotting the multilateral phase of the peace negotiations on the premise that no discussion over economic issues should be launched with Israel before it withdraws from their occupied territories, thus allowing for peace treaties to be reached.

Christopher

(Continued from page 16)

Rabin on the sidelines of the MENA economic summit.

But he told journalists on the flight to Amman: "I don't expect any major developments to come out of that meeting. Really it is just to bring me up-to-date on their own thinking."

Even if the Syrian government is "serious about the search for peace" there are

still "differences both in procedure and substance."

He said the talks in Damascus would enable him to "touch base" with Mr. Assad and continue the U.S. role as "an honest broker" in the Middle East peace process.

He would once more try to persuade Syria to agree to hold military talks with Israel which ground to a halt in June when the two sides failed to agree on security arrangements to accompany an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

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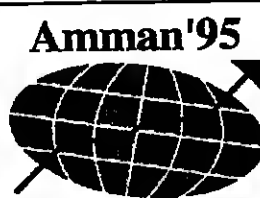
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Jean Reno,
Natalie Portman
& Gary Oldman...in
Leon
"The Professional"
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

Nabila Obeid & Yousef Sha'ban
...in
Huda & His Excellency the
Minister
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Weekend At Bernies
Part II
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
On Deadly Ground
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
(Arabic)
Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15

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German minister says EU will not invest in proposed M.E. bank for development

By Lola Keilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The European Union will not oppose the establishment of a Middle East bank for development but the 15 members bloc will not invest in the proposed institution at this stage, Günter Rexrodt, Germany's minister of economy, said Sunday.

The European Union sees

that establishing the bank needs time and is too expensive, but they will keep the door open for the future, the minister told a press conference at the fringes of the MENA summit that opened here yesterday.

"The European Union are interested in establishing a special organisation oriented to finance development, especially infrastructure," Mr. Rexrodt said.

The proposed bank is an

alternative to the Middle East development bank that the U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher announced its creation today.

But Mr. Rexrodt added that the Middle East bank delivers interesting bids, Germany will be involved in the business of the bank. He did not elaborate on details.

Mr. Rexrodt said Germany was interested in "right away" investments in the infrastructure sector, water supplies, cooperation in the

technological field, and vocational training (though educating and employing citizens from the region in German companies that will be established).

"This could be financed through already existing financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Investment Bank. Any other way of finance will take a lot of money and time," Mr. Rexrodt said.

Barcelona EU-Arab

Mediterranean region conference, to be held at the end of next month in Spain, will not affect the amount of investments German businessmen are willing to put in the region, the minister pointed out.

For the first time, Germany is leading the biggest number of 50 entrepreneurs to the region.

"We are interested in the Middle East and North Africa because they are our neighbouring areas," he said.

Peres: Investment can fight fundamentalism

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called on international business leaders Sunday to invest in Arab nations to combat the spread of Islamic fundamentalism, which he called the greatest threat to Middle East peace.

"This is the first time the evil movement of fundamentalism can attain nuclear capacity," Mr. Peres said. "We can't stop it through guns or knives. We have to make life look better and raise their standards of living."

Speaking at the Jerusalem Business Conference, Mr. Peres said only investment leading to jobs could turn impoverished Muslims away

from fundamentalism.

"We have to privatise the peace," he said.

Speaking a day earlier at the conference, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was heckled by protesters opposed to the peace process.

Mr. Peres said the economic summit in Amman is an example of business helping reshape the historically unstable region.

"The conference in Amman will help construct a new Middle East, returning it from blood to dreams, from conflict to cooperation," he said. "It will help build a borderless economy. This is the greatest promise we can give."

Saudis report record income from chemical sales

RIYADH (AFP) — An increase in production and prices boosted Saudi Arabia's income from petrochemical sales to a record level in the first nine months of 1995, officials said Tuesday.

Net profits by the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) stood at 4.9 billion Saudi riyals (\$1.3 billion) in the first nine months, higher than the record earnings of 4.2 billion riyals (\$1.1 billion) for the whole of 1994, SABIC said in a performance report.

"The sharp rise in the company's income was a result of both increased production and the international market upturn for several SABIC products," SABIC's vice chairman, Ibrahim Salamah, said.

He said expansion projects had pushed production to 15 million tonnes from 14 million tonnes in the first nine months of 1994.

The profits in the January-September period of 1995 nearly doubled over the same period in 1994, which they stood at around 2.5 billion riyals (\$660 million), the report showed.

The government-controlled SABIC is the biggest chemical producer in the Arab World, producing petrochemicals, fertilizers, petroleum products among other goods.

SABIC has been involved in expansion ventures to raise output capacity to around 20 million tonnes by 2000.

The Saudi government owns 70 per cent of SABIC's capital of 10 billion riyals (\$2.66 billion) while around 20 per cent is held by Saudi businessmen and 10 per cent by other Gulf investors.

Officials said early this year they planned to sell more than half its share to help large-scale economic reforms to cushion the impact of weak crude prices.

Saudi Arabia is the world's top oil power, with an output of nearly eight million barrels a day and reserves of more than a quarter of the global crude reserves of around one trillion barrels.

Inflation in Sudan rises

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said its inflation rate in September was 60.7 per cent year-on-year, up from 58 per cent in August.

Sadiq Nasir, the government official in charge of statistics, was quoted in the state-owned daily Al Ingaz Al Watani as attributing the rise to an increase in commodity prices.

Mr. Nasir did not name the commodities, but there have been rises in the prices of bread, wheat, sugar and fuel in recent months. He said a rise in the price of fuel and a weak Sudanese pound would push up the price of other commodities this month.

The government has been maintaining a tight control on spending in an attempt to curb inflation, which has blighted the Sudanese economy for years.

It has recently reduced money supply in an attempt to contain inflation rates, which the government says it wants to reduce to 45 per cent by the end of this year.

Kuwait to sell \$3b stakes in 28 firms

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to sell government shares worth over \$3 billion in 28 companies in the next few years to widen the Gulf country's investor base and reduce state dominance of the economy.

The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), the government's investment arm, said it expected to sell shares in four of the 28 firms by the end of 1995, furthering a year-old privatisation programme that has boosted stock exchange prices and volume.

KIA managing director Ali

Al Bader, in a detailed re-

view of previously announced sale plans, told a news conference he had had serious offers from 23 companies to buy KIA shares in the 28 companies and was confident demand would remain buoyant.

"The most important criteria is market demand," he said. "We have sold good companies, medium quality companies and companies which had some losses but which people were ready to buy. It's a mixed bag. We still have some very good companies."

He said there would be no

change in the policy of selling shares only to citizens of Arab Gulf states but noted non-Gulf Arab could participate through mutual funds.

The government has a 10 per cent stake or more in each of the 28 listed firms, which include banks and investment, service and industrial companies. The most valuable single holding is a 49 per cent stake in mobile telecommunications, worth 149 million dinars (\$498 million) at current prices.

KIA has already earned \$1 billion for the government from sales of state shares in eight companies since September 1994 to revive a dormant non-oil sector and stimulate domestic investment. Most sales have been conducted by auction.

Sheikh Bader, noting a rise in bank deposits over the past year, said the success of the sales may have persuaded private Kuwaitis to divert to their home market some of

the millions of dollars of funds they annually place overseas.

Private sector deposits at local banks rose 11 per cent to 6.14 billion dinars (\$20.5 billion) in June 1995.

"The programme has affected the propensity to invest in Kuwait and to leave money ready with the banking system to invest. We think this (the programme) has an effect," he said.

He said the central bank had detected a decline in foreign transfers overseas, adding: "These indications are exactly what we would like to see — more interest in investing in Kuwait's listed companies. This is an important objective of this policy."

The 28 firms are due to be sold within a five year period from the start of 1994. Sheikh Bader said. He did not identify the four companies expected to be sold this year. The exchange price index

rose by a third and volume has multiplied in the past year on privatisation news and moves to settle long-standing corporate and individual bad debt.

Sheikh Bader said in answer to a question that sales of shares made by investors to fund repayments under a bad debt settlement programme in coming years might occasionally affect market demand for KIA holdings at times, but would not hamper sales.

"We are not in a rush and neither is the market, and we only act when there is a bona fide, serious request to buy from us. We are not competing with the sellers in the market," he said.

Sheikh Bader added he was considering amending auction pricing policy after a poor turnout at the Oct. 18 sale of the KIA's 6.5 per cent stake in Kuwait Insurance Company.

Dollar guillotines 13,000 European aerospace workers

PARIS (AFP) — The dollar guillotined 13,000 workers in the European aerospace industry in the space of four days last week, undermining warnings by German industrialists that they are becoming uncompetitive and a debate in France about the "strong franc" policy.

The European aerospace industry is in a dogfight for survival with an intangible enemy: The exchange rate generated in the cyber-space of electronic prices and dealing screens.

The lasting fall of the dollar is the reason given by DASA of Germany and Aerospatiale of France, the two biggest participants in the Airbus airliner programme, for the launch of huge restructuring plans.

The scheme announced by Daimler-Benz Aerospace on Oct. 23 even states the cause in its name: Dolares, standing for "dollar on low rescue."

DASA intends to shed nearly 9,000 jobs by the end of 1998 to reduce the number of people employed to 40,271.

Aerospatiale, which employs 32,400 people, told its works council on Thursday that it would shed 3,100 jobs in 1996 and 1997 and 800 in its subsidiary Eurocopter in which DASA has a big stake.

The other two partners in the Airbus programme, British Aerospace and CASA of Spain, are affected less by the fall of the dollar against the mark and French franc because sterling and the peseta have been allowed to depreciate in the last three years.

But factors other than the dollar are also at play, and most notably high employment costs and rigidities in labour practices.

German industrialists in particular have warned that high charges related to employment and wage increases are forcing them to develop their production abroad.

They, and trades unions, have also been driven to negotiate arrangements to make labour practices more flexible, by calculating the number of hours worked over a full year rather than a single week or month, in the car industry, for example.

At Aerospatiale an internal study into over-manning in the missile division was carried out in the light of the fall of the dollar and falling expenditures by the state on military equipment.

The space division has not yet been affected. It has just won six export contracts but its future is believed to depend on political decisions to be taken in France and Germany.

Aerospatiale has calculated that if the dollar had remained at about 5.80 francs instead of falling to 5.30 francs, it would have made a profit in the first half of the year of 605 million francs instead of a net loss of 105 million francs.

A member of the board said: "The dollar is killing us. If this continues the European aero industry will disappear."

The market for products made by aerospace companies is depressed and this has obliged U.S. companies to become mutually aggressive on world markets.

The president of Aerospatiale, Louis Gallois, said that the exchange rate of the dollar now represented "a transfer of growth and technology to the United States."

Aerospatiale is controlled

by the state and Mr. Gandois

said Oct. 17 that the company needed to increase its capital of six billion francs to 16 billion francs or about 30 per cent of sales.

The president of DASA, Manfred Bischoff, said that the fall of the dollar distorted the terms of competition, with the U.S. company Boeing which makes the airliners most directly in competition with Airbus.

Airbus recently failed to win two contracts of strategic importance owing to the weakness of the dollar and a price war. One of these was with the Scandinavian SAS airline which chose Boeing airliners and the other with the U.S. company Valujet which chose aircraft built by McDonnell Douglas.

"This cannot go on," lamented Serge Dassault, head of Dassault Aviation, the French company which builds military aircraft.

Mr. Dassault is also the head of the association of French aero industries (GIFAS) and is to succeed Mr. Bischoff next year as head of the European association (AECMA).

In the spring, Mr. Dassault proposed the creation of a monetary compensation fund similar to the one which cushions farmers within the European Union (EU) in the event of internal exchange rate changes.

This idea has found little support. The Commission of the European Union, responding to several such demands, found recently that in general the economies of EU countries with so-called strong currencies had benefited, rather than suffered, from the rise of their currencies because the pressure on margins had restrained wages and prices.

This has led Mr. Dassault to speak openly alongside those in France who are arguing that the government should allow the franc and interest rates to fall.

Oman to seek financing for LNG project next month

MUSCAT (R) — Oman is to

go to the international market in November to seek financing for its \$6 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, a manager of the Oman LNG Company said.

Tony Hanna, Oman LNG general manager, said he was confident Oman would obtain financing for the project, the biggest undertaken by the Arab Gulf state.

"We will be seeking 70 per cent finance of the \$3.5 billion expenditure of Oman LNG," Mr. Hanna told reporters. "The rest would be financed by equity."

Oman LNG, 51 per cent government-owned, deals with the downstream side of Oman's gas export plans. Royal Dutch/Shell Group Unit Overseas Trading Ltd owns 34 per cent. Total S.A. has six per cent, Partex Oman Corp two per cent, Japan's Mitsubishi Corp and Mitsui and Co. Ltd each have a three per cent stake while Itochu Corp of Japan has one per cent.

"We have produced a financing execution plan being agreed by the board and will issue a preliminary information memorandum (PIM) at the end of November," Mr. Hanna said. "That will go out to banks and export credit agencies. We will be seeking to secure key arrangements at that time."

Mr. Hanna said that ultimately up to 200 banks would be involved in the syndication.

The liquefied gas project is expected to earn Oman, a small oil producer with a daily 500,000 barrels per day output, a 20 per cent increase in oil and gas revenue.

The \$6 billion tag in current prices for the project includes about \$2 billion for tankers, \$2 billion for the liquefaction plant and \$2 billion for the upstream side of

the project. Oman LNG technical manager Kenneth Bradbourn said.

"Expenditure by the time the project starts up in year 2000 will be some \$6.5 billion in money-of-the-day with ongoing expenditure in the upstream during the project life," Mr. Hanna said.

This includes money for eight ships, but the company will be building only four because the project's planned output will be going to South Korea on a free on board basis.

Officials said they were banking on rising demand in Asia and Europe for LNG to make the project lucrative. It is one of two main gas projects in the Gulf that aim to meet growing LNG demand by 2000.

"There is adequate demand in the Far East to initiate both projects," Mr. Hanna said, referring to the multi-billion dollar LNG project in nearby Qatar, where the North Field contains the world's single largest concentration of gas.

A major challenge for the Oman project is to secure firm sales-and-purchase agreements from its LNG exports.

Oman LNG marketing manager Ian Coult said the company was close to completing a gas deal with South Korea before late this year by the time the PIM goes to the banks.

Oman and Korea Gas Corp signed a letter of intent in February for the supply of three million tonnes a year of Omani LNG for 25 years starting in 2000.

"We are working towards an investment decision which will be taken in the third quarter of next year," Mr. Coult said. "By that time we will have final sales and purchase agreements and the contract for the plant."

British Bank of the M.E. promotes services, network

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Bank of the Middle East (BBME) is the largest and most widely-represented foreign bank in the Middle East with 26 branches throughout the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan and Lebanon, plus an offshore banking unit in Bahrain and a representative office in Jericho in the Palestinian autonomous area.

A member of the HSBC Group since 1959, BBME's unique relationship with the Middle East dates back more than a century. Founded in London in 1889, it pioneered banking in the region and for decades was the only bank committed to supporting the area. In Jordan it started

business as early as 1949 and was the first bank to open in Kuwait, Dubai, and Oman.

In addition to its Middle East network, in India BBME has branches in Bombay and Trivandrum, operations in London and Geneva, and an offshore banking unit in Nassau, Bahamas. Its head office in Jersey, Channel Islands.

BBME offers a full range of banking and personal finance services — from current and savings accounts term deposits and credit/debit cards — delivered to customers through the latest technology and the largest branch network of any foreign bank in the Middle East.

In its corporate banking services, BBME's focus is on fostering long-term relationships, drawing on its extensive knowledge of commerce in the Middle East. Its full range of services includes working capital term finance, import and export facilities, business finance and deposit services.

BBME is also a leading provider of trade finance throughout the Middle East, and offers a comprehensive range of trade-related services. BBME is well placed to finance trade between the Middle East and the rest of the world.

A leading commercial bank in treasury and capital markets in the Middle East,

BBME has six dealing rooms in the region.

Personal (retail) banking activities include various deposit and personal lending products supported by several unique services tailored to the special needs of local clients such as GlobalAccess, an ATM card which allows users to access their local accounts while travelling overseas, and AssetVantage, a priority service which offers its members a bundle of privileges which include preferential interest rates and international help desk service.

In addition to the Atia Management Office in Jebel Hussein, the BBME has five branches in Jordan.

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

UNRWA HQ AMMAN VACANCY NOTICE NO. 47/95

THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF & WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST REQUIRES AT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN AMMAN:

GENERAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST (Social Studies)
GRADE 15. (VN # HQ (A)47/95). FIXED TERM: THREE YEARS
(Monthly take home pay about JD 514 plus dependency allowance; plus monthly provident fund JD 125 payable at end of service; compulsory medical insurance).

DUTIES: Conducts analytical evaluations and submits proposals for the enrichment/development of curricula and methods of teaching of Social Studies in UNRWA schools and training centres; conducts different types of research studies at all school levels in the fields of curriculum enrichment/development, attitudes, values, behaviour modification etc., and provides education development centres with other practical and innovative plans for effective teaching of the Social Studies; prepares guidelines for school supervisors for the development of self-learning materials aiming at improving the achievement/skills of the Agency's students in Social Studies; prepares core curricula/syllabuses for teaching of Social Studies, built on analysis and breakdown of the content of the curricula/syllabuses and the prescribed textbooks of the host countries; prepares for teachers and instructors teacher-guides (particularly for those textbooks where teacher-guides are not available), guide notes, audio-videogrammes and updates requirements for necessary teaching aids, consumable supplies (and equipment), for textbooks prescribed by the host countries/supervises the teaching of Social Studies, participates in the organisation of in-service training courses, conducts and evaluates seminars (when required), as well as writing and reviewing of instructional materials in the Social Studies; coordinates with other general education Specialists in matters pertaining the preparation, implementation, evaluation and follow-up of work plans of the department; provides guidance to school supervisors and Faculty of Educational Sciences instructors in the related pedagogical and teaching methods of the Social Studies; conducts seminars/lectures at the faculty level for students/teachers enrolled in faculty's programme when required.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: Advanced university degree from a recognised university in Social Studies; education diploma of successful completion of a teacher training course of at least one year duration. Competence in preparing curriculum enrichment/self-learning materials. **EXPERIENCE:** Ten years of teaching experience at various levels of education including experience at an appropriate senior level of which at least five years must have been in in-service or pre-service teacher education (including teaching at university level) and/or supervision of teaching Social Studies in English and Arabic. **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:** Possession of Ph.D. in Social Studies; competence in conducting research in the field of Social Studies.

Candidates are requested to submit a detailed UNRWA personal history form not later than Nov. 14, 1995 to:

The Office of the Coordinator
UNRWA Headquarters Amman
Attention: Personal Officer
P.O. Box 140157 (Wadi Seer)
Amman 11814 Jordan

Full consideration will be given to disabled candidates whose disability does not mitigate the effective performance of the duties of the job. Priority will be given to full qualified registered Palestinians.

CONDOLENCES

THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE MODERN PRINTING PRESS CO. IN AL KHOBAR, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, MOURN IN PROFOUND GRIEF THE DEATH OF

Rashid S. Kassab

THE COMPANY- OWNER, AND PRAY TO GOD SO THAT HIS SOUL MAY REST IN PEACE.

adis report
record
come from
chemical sales

ADH (AFP) — An increase in production and chemical sales from Saudi Arabia has led to a record level in the nine months of 1995, said Tuesday.

The Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) stood at 19 billion Saudi riyals (3 billion dollars) in the first nine months of 1995, higher than the 18 billion in the same period of 1994, SABIC said in a statement.

The sharp rise in the company's income was a result of increased production of the international market for several SABIC products, SABIC's vice president, Ibrahim Salamah, said.

The Saudi government pushed production to 1.1 million tonnes from 1.4 million tonnes in the first nine months of 1994.

The profits in the January-September period of 1995 doubled over the same period in 1994, when they stood at around 2.5 billion riyals (\$400 million), the firm showed.

The government-controlled SABIC is the largest chemical producer in the world, producing petrochemicals, fertilizers, petroleum products among others.

SABIC has been involved in expansion ventures to increase output capacity to around 3 million tonnes by 2000.

The Saudi government owns 75 per cent of SABIC, capital of 10 billion riyals (\$1.6 billion) while around 20 per cent is held by Saudi businessmen and 5 per cent by other Gulf investors.

Officials said early this year they planned to sell more than half its share to help large scale economic reforms to cushion the impact of weak crude prices.

Saudi Arabia is the world's top oil power, with an output of nearly eight million barrels per day and reserves of one-third of the world's oil.

Mr. Nasser did not name the commodities, but there have been rises in the prices of bread, wheat, meat and fuel in recent months. He said it was in the price of fuel that a weak Sudanese pound would push up the price of other commodities this month.

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Qatar participates aggressively in summit

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Top Qatari businessmen, relying on cheap energy and tax breaks, have come to the Middle East economic summit with a wish-list of 22 development projects worth millions of dollars.

Many of their leaders have had private and public contacts with Israeli officials — an advantage for them at the summit, a follow-up to last year's largely political meeting in Casablanca which saw Arabs and Israelis mixing together.

Qatar, like its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) lifted an indirect boycott on firms doing business with Israel last September.

But it remains committed to GCC's decision to keep a direct economic ban on Israel, imposed since 1948, until an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Once the boycott is lifted, there is no restriction (on business with Israel), but for the time being, we are still abiding by the boycott rule," said Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Mohammad, head of Qatar's 6,000-strong chamber of industry and commerce, told Reuters in an interview late on Saturday.

Qatar's list of 22 projects, from steel pipes, cement and petrochemicals, to iron oxide pigments and safety gloves — has ready feasibility studies

and is regarded as among the most likely to attract foreign interest.

Sheikh Hamad leads a delegation of 48 businessmen and industrialists to the three-day summit, probably among the largest after the United States and Egyptian private sector teams.

"We have selected projects in which Qatar has an advantage in terms of implementation because of the low cost of energy, and the availability of raw materials, especially those which are derivatives from petrochemicals," said Sheikh Hamad.

"We have selected medium

and small-size schemes for ordinary investors... down-

stream projects based on large-scale strategic projects that will be implemented by the state-run oil company in joint venture with international oil companies."

Doha is using tax holidays, cheap raw materials and energy and "almost a negligible price of land (for projects)," to lure investors to Qatar, which has the world's third largest proven gas reserves, he added.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani and Minister of Energy and Industry Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, will promote key projects to increase Doha's oil and gas output levels to diversify its

oil-dominated economy.

Plans include the possibility of setting up a gas distribution centre at Aqaba to supply neighbouring countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

The U.S. oil giant Enron Corp. Inc. is interested in marketing Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG), brought by ship to Aqaba and re-exported through the region, including Israel and Turkey.

Doha and Enron are in talks with Jordan on the plan.

Qatar's General Petroleum Corp (GPC) confirmed in March it had granted Enron approval to market five million tonnes annual output of a \$4 billion proposed LNG joint venture, expected to start production from two trains from early 1999.

Imports of products ran to 70,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil equivalent in the earlier part of this year.

Expansion and upgrading at its refineries, particularly at Abadan and Arak, and nationwide gas substitution have also helped to cap local oil demand which had threatened to sharply curb Iran's oil exports in the new decade.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said last week that the doubling of some fuel prices since March had cut local demand by 100,000 b/d of oil equivalent, saving about \$300 million in six months.

Traditionally, Iran has come to the market for gas oil and kerosene — a cooking fuel — from October to meet growing heating demand as winter temperatures begin to take hold.

"On gas oil, we are importing nothing from the Persian Gulf," said the NIOC marketing official who asked not to be identified, adding that kerosene imports were also below levels this time last year.

Gulf oil traders also noted that Iran has not been in the market over the last few weeks to buy gas oil and that its kerosene import needs were being satisfied by an existing supply contract with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Iran is maintaining its exports of fuel oil and naphtha through its unexpected exports of gas oil in June and July have not been repeated so far, traders say.

Iran's biggest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia, its own refineries are unable to meet domestic demand for all oil products, making it dependent on imports of some heating and transport fuels to bridge the supply gap.

But Iranian energy sources say the country is now becoming self-sufficient in more products and that imports of gas oil — commonly used for heating and in diesel engines — from the Gulf market are currently on hold.

"As a package the volume of product imports compared with one, two, three years ago is comprehensively reduced," an oil marketing manager at the Tehran-based National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said.

He said the World Bank was ready to support Iran in technical studies related to economic reforms.

Tehran, which can draw on up to \$850 million in committed World Bank loans, had so far only used some \$250 million to finance six development and irrigation projects, he added.

He said Tehran "may be interested in requesting new lending facilities from the World Bank, but the problem is that there is not sufficient support among our major shareholders for bank lending to Iran."

The United States is the bank's largest contributor.

Meanwhile, Iranian energy officials and Gulf traders said Iran is reducing its imports of refined oil products in a move that will save the Islamic republic valuable hard currency expenditure.

Hard currency savings are vital to Iran which faces annual debt repayment of up to \$5 billion, an obligation that has led the government to clamp down on imports in order to build up foreign exchange reserves.

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Iran's economy hurting but can manage — Bank

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — A senior World Bank official said that a U.S. trade ban, foreign debts and weak oil prices had hurt Iran's economy.

"In the last two years, under the impact of falling oil prices, and because of the bunching of short-term debt maturities, and most recently, because of the sanctions, the economy faced a much more difficult environment," said Caio Koch-Weser, World Bank vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa.

"As a result of that, the last year has been more difficult," Mr. Koch-Weser told Reuters in an interview in Amman.

Tehran's fiscal deficit widened, inflation went up and its currency depreciated, he added. He gave no figures.

"But the country has successfully renegotiated the repayment schedule on the short-term debt with various creditors," Mr. Koch-Weser said.

"And one sees, in the next five-year plan, a continued commitment to reform targets of about five per cent growth, continued privatisation, and the right measures for stabilisation," he added.

Iran's debt stood at around 35 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), which according to international standards "is not very large," Mr. Koch-Weser said.

Iran is due to repay about \$3 billion in the current Iranian year on its foreign debt totalling \$20 billion to \$30 billion, incurred mostly when the country went on a major shopping spree from 1990 to 1992, with imports peaking at \$28 billion in 1992.

It slashed imports from its major trading partners this year so that it can build up enough hard currency reserves to service its foreign debt. It also banned free currency exchange in May, setting a fixed rate of 3,000 riyals to the dollar.

The currency had fallen as low as 7,000 against the dollar after the United States announced a trade ban in May against Iran for what Washington said was a programme to develop nuclear arms and its support of terrorism. Iran denies both charges.

Although oil revenues increased between January and May because of higher oil prices — Iran is the world's second largest oil exporter — the clampdown on imports continued.

Mr. Koch-Weser said the World Bank had just completed a study on the Iranian economy and its findings would be released soon, after consultations with the Tehran government are over.

Iran had improved its social indicators over the past 10 years, with primary education enrolment reaching around 100 per cent, life expectancy increasing and ill-

teracy decreasing across the country, Mr. Koch-Weser said.

He said the World Bank was ready to support Iran in technical studies related to economic reforms.

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Britain to extend credit line to Jordan

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British government will extend to Jordan medium export credit through its Export Credit Guarantees Department (ECGD). U.K.'s Trade Minister Anthony Nelson announced Sunday.

Mr. Nelson, who is leading a senior-most executives delegation to the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, made the announcement during his speech to conference attendees on trade financing.

The minister indicated that this measure will facilitate the supply of British goods and services for the projects which will further assist Jordan's economic recovery and contribute to development of the region.

Mr. Nelson said that British Prime Minister John Ma-

jor returned from his visit to Jordan in March determined to look for further ways in which Britain could provide practical support to the peace process and Jordan's role in it.

Mr. Nelson added that the U.K. was financially supporting the peace process and that the ECGD cover would help Jordan participate in several regional projects and would also open up new opportunities for Britons exploring business ventures in the Middle East.

"This is an important political decision and a vote of confidence in Jordan and the peace process," he said. "It will mean new money for new business and new jobs."

Other officials accompanying Mr. Nelson include: executives from the Committee for Middle East Trade, which is bound in a cooperation agreement with the Jordan

Businessmen's Association; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; the Export Credit Guarantees Department; the Overseas Development Administration; and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The delegation also includes high-level British businessmen and bankers.

Mr. Nelson also reminded the audience that all of Jordan's aid-related debts to Britain, totalling around JD 50 million had been cancelled.

In his speech, he acknowledged the problems the Kingdom faced in servicing its debts and called on other creditors to follow the U.K.'s lead in writing-off all aid debts. He also indicated that Britain would continue to support international efforts to ease Jordan's debt burden to enhance its economic recovery and improve its credit standing.

U.S. companies expanded takeovers abroad this year

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite the dollar's weaker purchasing power in 1995, U.S. companies have expanded their acquisitions abroad by 25 per cent compared with last year, a study by a major American accounting firm shows.

The KPMG Peat Marwick study also shows foreign purchases of U.S. businesses have risen 17 per cent in 1995. The frenzy of dealmaking, the firm said in the study, "sets the stage for another record year in global corporate marriages."

U.S. companies spent \$43 billion on overseas acquisitions in the January-September period, vs. \$34 billion during the first nine

months of 1994.

The five most popular targets for U.S. companies, accounting for more than two-thirds of all purchases abroad, were in Britain at \$9.2 billion, France at \$5.3 billion, Russia at \$4.9 billion and Australia at \$4.8 billion.

The Americans increased spending even though the value of the dollar has been weaker this year compared with 1994. That means it was more expensive for U.S. purchasers to buy foreign assets.

Steve Blum, KPMG Peat Marwick's national director of corporate finance, attributed the spending surge to the strong U.S. stock market that helped U.S. companies raise money, easy availability

of credit in this country and low interest rates that made it attractive to borrow.

The firm said foreign purchasers spent \$46 billion on U.S. target companies in the first nine months of 1995, vs. \$40 billion in the first nine months of 1994. The top five big spenders were from Canada at \$10.1 billion, Britain at \$10 billion, Germany at \$8 billion, Belgium at \$4 billion and Japan at \$3 billion.

Globally, deal spending rose six per cent to \$161 billion in the first nine months of the year, from \$152 billion in the comparable 1994 period. The value of global marriages for all of 1994 totalled a record \$239 billion.

Saudis to pay for \$6 billion plane purchases over 9 years

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Saudi Arabia will pay the \$6 billion for 61 U.S. airliners. It is buying in instalments spread out over more than nine years, the kingdom's defence minister said in comments published Sunday.

The Al Hayat daily quoted Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz as saying Riyadh will make a downpayment of only \$10 million this year, followed by \$67 million next year.

The remainder will be paid in unspecified instalments over the following eight years.

Prince Sultan, Saudi Arabia's minister of defence and aviation, gave no other details about the payments or financing.

He said the national carrier, Saudia, will take delivery of the first airliners in 1997, and that all 61 aircraft would be in service by 1998.

The Arabic-language newspaper quoted him as saying that the new planes would put Saudia in a "very competitive" position, allowing it to make the larger instalments once the aircraft are operational.

The purchase is expected to modernise state-owned Saudia's ageing fleet of some 50 to 60 airliners and improve its performance once a proposed privatisation programme is completed. This year, it is expected to break even or make a small profit.

Ground-breaking ceremony for ITT-Sheraton hotel

AMMAN (J.T.) — A groundbreak ceremony at the site of the future ITT/Sheraton hotel will take place Monday, Oct. 30 at 4:45 p.m. ITT/Sheraton signed a management contract with the Jordanian holding company of Al Dawliyah for Industrial Trade and Tourist Development on March 19, 1995, with provisions for technical assistance by ITT/

Sheraton. The principals of Al Dawliyah, Mr. Nabil Mousher, chairman, Mr. Yousef Al Taher, general manager; and Dr. Mohammad Jaber, assistant general manager, will all be present at the groundbreaking. Once completed, the ITT/Sheraton will be a 296 room, four star hotel, with a total project value of \$40 million.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Pick the persons you want to have allies at this time and state your aims nicely.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put more artistry and efficiency in your career activities and you can gain far greater benefits.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get out with congenial friends to places of amusement and have a delightful time together.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day to entertain at home since this could bring fine results later this evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It is wise to cooperate more with persons you deal with everyday and come to a fine understanding with them for you to be successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a fine day today for getting your environment in far better order.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are charming and dynamic today and can get almost any favour you wish.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to reach a better understanding with the one you love.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more gregarious and deepen friendships you now enjoy at this time.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you make an effort to handle civic duties well today, your reputation can be improved.

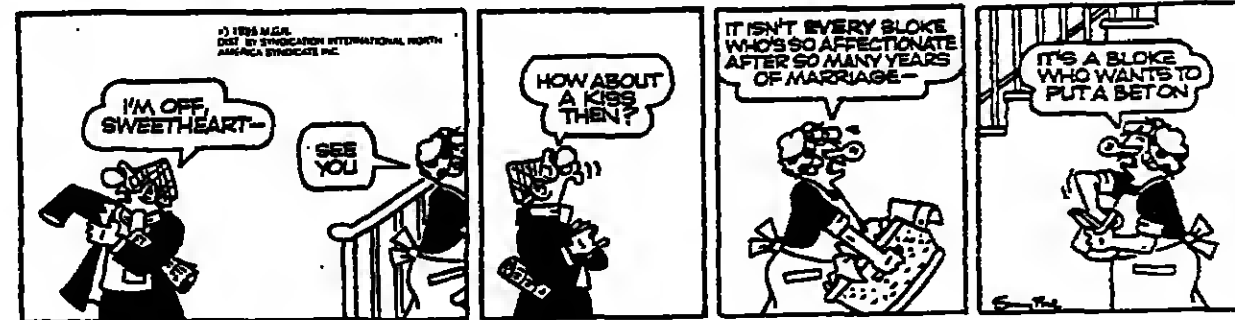
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Carry through serenely with some interest you have today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put a neat touch and fine finish to whatever you are doing today.

Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n' Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

ACROSS

- Pick-me-up
- CIA forerunner
- Poker money
- "That's —" (song)
- Battle reminder
- Rajah's wife
- Old language
- Malacca
- Heraldic band
- Pedestrian's marked lanes
- Mob or lob end
- Frontiersman, Wyatt
- Starts
- Very different
- Equip
- Untruthful one
- Brood of pheasants
- Chops up
- Regards with approval
- Trap
- profundo
- Fatigue
- Slow leak
- Sen. Thurmond
- Part of AWOL
- Southwest spread
- Near: pref.
- Take — leave it
- Decision-making site
- Simpleton
- Tun
- Relative by marriage
- Burden
- Molding
- NY city
- Heraldic band
- Actor Byrnes
- Computer word

DOWN

- Powder, briefly
- Sharif
- "Say — drugs"
- Rainbow
- Thurible
- Actor's award
- Overcharged
- Submerged
- Certain air currents
- Author Bret
- Ria
- Landing places
- Put in new grass
- Gretzky of hockey
- Bends the head
- Excess fat
- Verdi work
- Ewes' guys
- Line pattern
- do-well
- Ratio words
- Anxiety
- Ireland
- Clan
- "Goodbye, Columbus" author
- Comes close
- Set a burden upon
- 1990 Emmy winner, Alex
- Whitish element
- Get — (throw away)
- Make amends
- Intricate plot
- Inquired
- Latest lad
- Aware of
- Put — on it! (keep quiet)
- Freshwater fish
- Used the natatorium

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Yesterday's puzzle solved:

FACET HART COBB
AMOLE ALAR OBBIE
LOCK KALL THE DOORS
AKA SILO EATERS
MENU ANNE
FAME EXTRA ROMP
ABASH ATIP COO
DOUSESTHE LIGHTS
ERN NERO PAREE
STAB NEEDY MELO
DAYS AARE
ORIOLE OSLO BUT
SETTINGTHE ALARM
ANTE CUTE SERGE
ROOD ENOS TOKEN



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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SPOT THE CLUE

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
AKQ10
K103
Q95
A74

EAST
973
A
A442
KQ1093

SOUTH
QJ8742
QJ1053
AAS

WEST
J8542
9565
K7
566

The bidding:
NORTH SOUTH WEST NORTH
1 10 Pass 40
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠.
Every card and every play tells a story. Understand the plot and become a winning player.
This hand is from a major team championship some years ago. North-South reached a reasonable four-heart contract in quick time and, after a club lead, it takes well-reasoned defense to defeat the game. Cover up the South and West hands and see if you can annulate.

the performance of Eddie Kantar, U.S. internationalist and one of the game's most prolific and best writers.

When declarer played low from dummy on the club lead, Kantar's nine was captured by South's ace. Declarer cashed the ace and king of spades, discarding a club from hand, then led the nine of hearts. You win points with the ace. What do you lead next, and why?

Kantar reasoned that declarer had to be left with only red cards — if South held another club, it would have been disposed of on the remaining high spade. Therefore, to defeat the contract the defenders would have to find three more tricks in the red suits.

Obviously, no trick was available in trumps — declarer could easily have come to hand with a club ruff and tried a trump finesse if the queen were missing. That meant that the diamond suit would have to provide three tricks, and the only chance for the defense was to find partner with the king singleton. So, Kantar shifted to a low diamond, and king, ace and a diamond ruff defeated the contract one trick.

JUMBLE.
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PENIT

YALIG

KIRBEC

ALMMAA

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINER ODDLY SKEWER FLORID
Answer: What the dentist had after a long day with patients — HIS "FILL" OF WORK

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Jordan signs loan accords

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan and Jordan on Sunday signed two agreements under which Tokyo will extend \$151 million to help boost Jordan's foreign exchange reserves and expand the telecommunications sector.

Jordan also signed another loan agreement with the World Bank under which the bank would provide \$80 million to the Kingdom, again to help it raise its foreign exchange reserves to a level closer to a target set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The loan agreements were signed on the fringes of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference, which opened here Sunday.

Finance Minister Basel Jarrah and Hiroshi Yasuda, a senior official from the Export-Import Bank of Japan signed the first \$135 million loan under a special arrangement with the IMF. The amount will be disbursed to the IMF and adjusted against IMF advances already granted to Jordan.

Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and an official of the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund signed another loan accord for \$16 million, which will be used by the Telecommunications Corporation of Jordan.

Dr. Khalaf and World Bank MENA Region Vice-President Caio Koch-Weser signed the \$80 million loan agreement.

Japan meanwhile also announced that it was granting

another \$80 million loan to Jordan and that the formal signing of the related accord would take place after 30 working days in line with a stipulation by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

That also will be used by Jordan to beef up its foreign currency reserves.

The loans raise to \$441 million the total Japanese assistance to Jordan during the Japanese fiscal year 1995, which ends in March 1996.

Included in the total, in addition to the \$151 million loans signed on Sunday and the \$80 million to be signed after 30 days, are grant and technical assistance worth \$30 million, another loan worth \$80 million for human resources development and \$100 million in credit to help an expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant.

The latest Japanese assistance to Jordan comes in realisation of a pledge made by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama during a visit he paid to the Kingdom in September.

The government of Italy will extend to Jordan another loan of \$12 million, again under a co-financing agreement with the World Bank. The date of the signing of the Italian accord was not immediately known.

As a result of the agreements with Japan, the World Bank and Italy, Jordan will get a net amount of \$172 million to boost its foreign exchange reserves to over \$600 million.



His Majesty King Hussein, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at Sunday's opening of the Middle East and North Africa economic conference (Reuters photo)

Jordan to assist Bosnians rebuild shrines, education

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday Jordan would contribute to the reconstruction of Islamic shrines in Bosnia.

The Crown Prince's announcement was made during a meeting with Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, who is currently in Amman to take part in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit.

Mr. Silajdzic praised the Jordanian position towards Bosnia, recalling Jordan's

continuous support for the Bosnian people.

In another development, Jordan and Bosnia signed a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement, under which students from Jordan and Bosnia will be granted scholarships in the two countries' universities.

Youth delegations from both countries will visit each other.

The agreement also calls for the exchange of expertise in the fields of social development and information.

Qatar sets up \$250m fund for Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani, announced Sunday that his country was setting up a \$250 million fund to assist Palestinian development.

Sheikh Hamad told a news conference attended by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that \$25 million already had been secured for the fund, which will be used to underwrite projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The fund will be known as the Salam (peace) company, he said, and "will encourage

both the Palestinians and the others to gain from peace."

The announcement was made on the edge of the three-day Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which has drawn some 2,000 government officials and businessmen from 64 countries to discuss doing business in the region as peace widens.

Mr. Christopher described the fund as "a model of the kind of support that can be given to the Palestinians."

Mr. Arafat told Sheikh Hamad: "We welcome this very much as a step which will encourage others in the

same line."

He added, "Surely this company, which Qatar is sponsoring and supporting, is very much appreciated by the Palestinian people."

The announcement comes amid reports that Qatar is negotiating to sell natural gas to Israel, although an agreement is not expected to be signed before the end of the year.

Longer-term plans include

Christopher to pursue Damascus mission

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Mounting tension in the region following the killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi will have no impact on a visit planned by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Syria today to explore means to break the deadlock in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, senior U.S. administration officials said Sunday.

The officials, briefing reporters on the fringes of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference which opened here

Sunday, said Mr. Christopher was due in the Syrian capital as scheduled regardless of the killing.

The officials were answering a question whether Mr. Christopher had any change of mind over his plans, particularly that he would be landing in Damascus on the same day the body of Shaqaqi, who was gunned down in Malta on Thursday [see page 9], was being flown there.

As far as the Clinton administration is concerned, Syria is committed to the peace process and negotiations with Israel and as such there is no reason the killing should

affect Mr. Christopher's plans, said the officials.

The officials, however, declined direct comment on the assassination, blamed on the Israeli Mossad secret service by Islamic Jihad.

Mr. Christopher has admitted he faced an uphill task in trying to revive the Syrian-Israeli deadlocked peace negotiations.

The Secretary of State is scheduled to meet with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for several hours. In Amman he met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak



Briton gets 1st permanent electric heart

LONDON (R) — A British man was given an electric heart last week in an operation that could bring hope to hundreds of heart disease sufferers, the Sunday Times newspaper reported. Alastair Goodman, a 64-year-old retired film producer who suffered from heart failure, received the implant at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford in the first operation of its kind. The electric heart, developed by scientists at the Texas Heart Institute, is battery-operated and unlike heart assist devices designed to keep patients alive until they receive a transplant, it should work indefinitely. The Texas Heart Institute was unable to carry out the operation in the United States because the device has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Mr. Goodman, who had been given just six months to live and had been ruled too old to receive a heart transplant paid for by Britain's National Health Service, decided that he had nothing to lose from the operation. "I weighed up the options. My life was seriously at risk and this seemed the only way forward," he told the newspaper, whose front page showed him standing after the operation with the aid of two nurses. For the rest of his life, Mr. Goodman will have to wear a harness carrying the two 1.5 pound (0.68kg) batteries that operate the heart. These must be changed every eight hours. The electric heart, stitched into the left ventricle of Mr. Goodman's own heart, gives off a just audible whirr as it pumps oxygenated blood around the body, the Sunday Times said.

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huddling a pipeline from

Qatar through Saudi Arabia

and Jordan and into Israel

and, likely, the autonomous

Palestinian territories

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